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Jordanian officer kills himself in Paris

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian sergeant serving at the Jordanian military attaché's office in Paris was killed as a result of a shot from his service revolver, the Jordanian military attaché in Paris told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Sunday. The military attaché identified the sergeant as Dahar Ahmad Ayed, and said the military attaché's office will open an inquiry in the incident. The French authorities have been informed of the incident to help in the investigation, Petra said. Agence France Presse (AFP) said Ayed, 28, killed himself on Thursday with a shot to the temple, using his service revolver in his ground-floor office at the embassy on the western edge of Paris. AFP quoted a Jordanian embassy source as saying: "This soldier, who had neither personal problems nor enemies, disappeared, taking his secret with him."

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King sends message to Libyan leader

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb left for Libya on Sunday carrying a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on bilateral ties and issues of common concern. He will also hold talks with senior Libyan officials on means to increase trade between the two countries and encourage Libyan investors to launch joint ventures in Jordan.

Cuba pays tribute to Jordanian efforts

HAVANA (Petra) — The vice-president of Cuba has voiced his country's appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's role in strengthening the foundations of peace in the region. The Cuban official, speaking during a ceremony where Jordan's non-resident Ambassador to Cuba Hassan Abu Nimeh presented his credentials, said Havana was seeking to improve its ties with Jordan and the Arab World and wanted to open an embassy in Amman. He cited economic reasons as the major reason for not opening an embassy in Amman so far. Mr. Abu Nimeh conveyed King Hussein's best wishes to Cuban President Fidel Castro and briefed the Cuban vice-president on the situation in the Middle East.

Iraqi arrested near Israel-Jordan border

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Iraqi citizen was arrested Sunday near the Israeli-Jordanian border after infiltrating the Jewish state, Israel's army radio and sources said. Military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Iraqi was dressed in civilian clothes and was unarmed when he was discovered by a member of kibbutz Tzvi Zvi near the border. The sources said the kibbutz notified the army, which detained the man for questioning. It was not yet known why the Iraqi had entered Israeli territory or how he sneaked across the border.

FBI director ends Middle East tour

CAIRO (AFP) — Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Louis Freeh wound up a three-day visit to Egypt Sunday aimed at boosting security ties to fight economic crimes and terrorism. After talks Sunday with President Hosni Mubarak, the head of the FBI told reporters, "the FBI has cases which have impact around the world. Conversely, the Egyptian authorities have cases that involve activities in the USA: Money activities, banking crimes." "We are continuing our good relationship particularly in fighting against terrorism."

7 Palestinians killed, 4 missing after floods

QALQILYA (AFP) — Seven Palestinians were killed and four missing and feared dead on Sunday after floods caused by torrential rain swept away a mini-bus near Qalqilya in the West Bank, rescue workers said. Two passengers managed to escape from the vehicle late Saturday by grabbing hold of the branches of a tree, police said. The bodies of seven passengers have been recovered, said Youssef El Jabi, fire chief in the West Bank city of Nablus. The accident happened in an area of the West Bank under the control of the Palestinian National Authority that asked for help from Israeli police to search the flooded area for survivors. Much of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel was hit by heavy rain last week which led to considerable flooding. Six people were killed in weather-related road accidents.

King cautions against actions that might 'explode emotions' and undermine peace process  
Netanyahu, speaking after talks with HM, defends settlement plans by saying development of Jewish and Palestinian communities is evenhanded  
King: All issues of mutual concern discussed  
Netanyahu: Progress made on bilateral matters

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday expressed hope all efforts would be exerted to maintain an atmosphere of peace, security and dialogue leading to the final status negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis and reiterated that he stood ready to help in whatever way he could to advance the peace process.

The King was speaking at a press conference after several hours of talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that appeared to have made progress on some of the bilateral issues in terms of economic cooperation and joint projects.

Addressing the joint press conference, Mr. Netanyahu asserted that his Likud-led government was "the only Israeli government" capable of arriving at a final settlement with the Palestinians.

"We have created a consensus for peace among Israelis," he said in reply to a question in an implicit reference that a peace accord worked out by the left-leaning Labour Party, which he ousted in May elections, would be less acceptable to Israelis than a deal negotiated by the

right-wing Likud.

Mr. Netanyahu, who returned to Israel after a dinner hosted by the King, told the press conference that "genuine reciprocity, non-violence and dialogue and realistic expectations" from the Palestinians were the main preconditions for a final peace agreement.

In his comments at the press conference, the King did not specifically refer to the ongoing controversy over Israeli plans to build a Jewish neighbourhood in Arab East Jerusalem that have sparked Palestinian warnings of violence.

"We had our views and the Israelis had their views" on the subject, the King said in reply to a question. "We will continue to do everything we can... Essentially we would like to have an atmosphere of calm, peace and understanding and an atmosphere of dialogue leading to the final status negotiations as planned."

"I hope very very much indeed that nothing will ever happen to explode the emotions. We have to think with our minds and hearts... and I hope we all can continue to work with a sense of responsibility," the King added.

In two separate meetings earlier, the King and Mr. Netanyahu discussed the

Middle East peace process and bilateral relations in addition to the implementation of bilateral agreements, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The two sides also discussed means to advance the peace process on all tracks to ensure a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, which will enable the countries of the region to pursue comprehensive development and brighter future for all, Petra said.

"King Hussein stressed the need to refrain from embarking on any action set to obstruct the peace process or to give the enemies of peace the opportunity to impose their agenda," the agency added.

"King Hussein said peace should mean security for all and serious work to ensure a bright future for the generations to come," it said.

At the outset of the press conference, the King appealed to the media "to give us a chance to address our problems, without jumping into conclusions, without making speculations."

"We do not want to conduct policy through the media," he said. "We need to have a good atmosphere..."

Mr. Netanyahu sought to play down the potential cri-

sis with the Palestinians by declaring that he wanted Jerusalem to be a city of peace for Jews and Muslims, he said. "All our plans regarding Jerusalem, all of them without exception, include development plans for Arab neighbourhoods as well as Jewish neighbourhoods."

Mr. Netanyahu told the press conference, which came after three hours of talks with King Hussein, "Developing Jewish neighbourhoods in Jerusalem does not mean 'leaving undeveloped the Palestinian parts,'" he said, adding that his government had allocated almost \$50 million to "develop the Palestinian areas" of Jerusalem.

"The solution which I believe is feasible between us and the Palestinians requires mutual coexistence, almost a live and let-live policy — Palestinian communities can grow and develop as naturally as they should and would. The same thing is true for the

(Continued on page 7)

Peres urges party restraint over government scandal  
Netanyahu lawyer is confident prime minister will be cleared of wrongdoing in Bar-On affair

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Opposition leader Shimon Peres on Sunday called for a measured response to the attorney-general scandal engulfing Israel's government pending the outcome of an investigation.

"The Labour Party must act with restraint and patience until the end of judicial proceedings in this affair which is one of the most serious in our history. The country is wounded, and it is not something that I can rejoice about," Labour leader Peres told Israeli Radio.

The lawyer for Mr. Netanyahu said meanwhile his client has a strong defence in a corruption scandal over a political appointment that threatens to bring down his government.

Netanyahu has a very strong case, which is why I decided to take it," attorney Yacov Weinroth, who was called in two days ago to help the prime minister prepare for possible further questioning in the matter, told state television.

"Not only will he come out of this clean but also without a spot," he added.

Mr. Netanyahu also confidently told opposition groups who have been preparing for early elections

because of the scandal that he will not bow out anytime soon.

"Wait patiently, you have about four years in opposition. I have plans that you will remain in the opposition for four more years," Mr. Netanyahu said at a joint press conference in Amman on Saturday.

"I don't suggest that anybody have suits made, and I'm going to lead the country to peace and security," said the prime minister, who refused to comment directly on the scandal.

Mr. Netanyahu was grilled by police for four hours last week about last month's aborted appointment of close Likud Party ally Roni Bar-On as attorney general, allegedly in exchange for political favours.

Israeli Television said previously that 45 minutes into the interview, after Mr. Netanyahu failed to answer several awkward questions, police formally warned him his deposition might be used to press charges against him.

Mr. Weinroth said: "I will advise him to tell everything that he knows and not to use his right to silence if he is questioned again."

of the prime minister's office Avigdor Lieberman, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and cabinet secretary Danny Naveh — will be questioned by police for a second time this week over the affair.

"They will certainly be warned that their statements could eventually lead to charges being laid against them," the sources added.

The inquiry centres on claims by public television that the "agreement" on Bar-On was concluded by Shas religious party leader Arieh Deri and Mr. Lieberman. Mr. Netanyahu's closest political associate.

Mr. Deri allegedly warned Mr. Netanyahu that if Bar-On was not named to the top judicial position, the party, a member of Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing governing coalition, would not back the Hebron agreement with the Palestinians.

The Shas leader is also said to have agreed to a plea bargain with Mr. Bar-On over separate corruption charges he is facing.

If found to be implicated in a corrupt deal over Mr. Bar-On's appointment, Mr. Netanyahu could face charges of breach of trust.

(Continued on page 7)

Group urges EU to press Arafat on human rights

WASHINGTON (R) — A major U.S. human rights group said on Saturday it urged leaders of the European Union (EU) to press Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to stop alleged human rights abuses by Palestinian security forces.

Mr. Arafat and the EU leaders are due to sign an interim association agreement between the EU and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Monday in Brussels.

In a Feb. 20 letter released on Saturday, Human Rights Watch said under the agreement, the Palestinian authority should be required to "cease the pattern of legal measures and security force conduct that chills political debate and dissent."

Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth asked EU President Hans Van Mierlo and European Commission Vice President Manuel Marin to push Mr. Arafat to free more than 500 people being detained without charge, or charge and bring them to trial soon.

"Specifically, we urge you to press upon President Arafat, in a public manner, the need for the Palestinian (National) Authority to ensure accountability at the highest levels and to condemn publicly acts of torture, illegal detention and other abusive practices when committed by PNA security forces," he wrote.



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Royal Palace on Sunday (photo by Youssef Allani)

King meets Arab Israeli Knesset members, reiterates support for Palestinian endeavours

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian people and leadership and their endeavours to regain their rights in Palestine.

The King, who was speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation of Israeli Arab members of Israeli Parliament led by Abdul Wahab Darawsheh, head of the Arab Democratic Party, underlined the need for concerted efforts to achieve comprehensive and durable peace.

King Hussein reviewed with the visitors the developments in the peace process and called for efforts to remove obstacles in its path.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr. Darawsheh voiced the Palestinian people's

deep appreciation of King Hussein's efforts towards the establishment of a durable and just peace and the Kingdom's backing for the Palestinian people's endeavours to regain their rights.

Mr. Darawsheh spoke in detail about the dangers inherent in the Israeli settlement policies in Palestinian lands, particularly in and around Jerusalem, and their adverse effects on the peace process.

He also voiced the Palestinian people's appreciation of Jordan's acceptance of Palestinian students in Jordanian universities.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Awn Khawneh were present at the meeting at the Royal Court.

Assad, Hrawi discuss peace talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks with his Lebanese counterpart Elias Hrawi here Sunday amid efforts to restart Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations, officials said.

Mr. Hrawi met with Mr. Assad and Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Syrian presidential spokesman Jibril Kourieh said.

A Lebanese official said Mr. Assad and Mr. Hrawi would discuss "in particular Israeli aggression in South Lebanon."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Damascus on Saturday for talks with Mr. Assad about the Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations, which broke off a year ago.

After their meeting, Mr. Assad said at a news conference that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government "has done nothing up until now to encourage peace."

French foreign ministry official Jean-Claude Cousseran brought Mr. Assad a message Thursday from French President Jacques Chirac on French efforts regarding the peace process.

Mr. Assad said after talks with Mr. Mubarak that Syria was still committed to make peace with Israel.

But the Syrian leader accused Mr. Netanyahu of giving nothing to revive the Syrian-Israeli peace talks, suspended for about a year.

Iraq ends standoff over missile parts

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq ended a three-month standoff by granting U.N. inspectors permission to remove the remains of missile engines for analysis overseas, Iraqi and U.N. officials said Sunday.

The U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), which suspects Iraq of harbouring more than 16 Scud missiles, wants to know whether the remains belong to original Soviet-made missile engines or to parts Iraq made to hide the existence of Russian ones.

"The government of Iraq agreed to the removal of remnants of proscribed missile engines from Iraq for independent technical analysis by the commission," according to a joint Iraqi-UNSCOM statement.

The statement carried the names of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekeus, who said at a press conference here that the remains would be removed "very soon, maybe in some weeks."

Mr. Ekeus, who held three rounds of talks with Mr. Aziz during a four-day visit which ended here Sunday, said no decision had been made yet on which laboratories around the world would study the missile parts.

"We have so far offers from the U.S. and France, and the question of further offers from Russia is under consideration," Mr. Ekeus said at a press conference with Iraq's Foreign Affairs Under-Secretary Riyadh Al Qaisy.

"This has nothing to do with politics," Mr. Ekeus said.

Iraq had blocked the removal of some 130 engines and other missile debris since November while UNSCOM insisted the material be analysed in Huntsville, Alabama, in the United States and rejected an Iraqi offer to ship it to Russia.

But both sides struck a compromise, with Mr. Qaisy saying: "It was a very happy agreement."

UNSCOM agreed to brief Baghdad on the findings of the analysis and pledged not to render them public until the government here has been consulted, according to the statement.

While UNSCOM monitored the destruction of 48 long-range missiles following the 1991 Gulf war, Iraq retained some 85 other missiles but claimed later to have destroyed them on its own, according to U.N. officials.

Iraq fired around 80 missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

Mr. Ekeus said after his last trip here in December that he suspected Iraq was hiding more than the six to 16 missiles previously estimated.

The Pentagon accused Iraq earlier this month of hiding up to 25 ballistic missiles in violation of U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Ekeus said he had confronted Mr. Aziz the last time with documentary evidence proving that Baghdad had imported missile components. The former Swedish diplomat said Iraq claimed to have destroyed the components unilaterally, but that his inspectors had not been able to verify this.

Mr. Ekeus and Mr. Aziz, who meet every two months under an agreement reached in June last year, will meet again here in early April to discuss biological and chemical weapons in "an intensive manner," Mr. Ekeus said.

The joint statement also said the two sides "started a detailed review of the chemical weapons area at the high political level."

Mr. Ekeus said UNSCOM had presented its concerns about chemical weapons, which he described as "quite substantial and serious," to the Iraqi government.



# Mordechai: Peace with Lebanon in two weeks — if Syria permits

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ISRAEL BELIEVES it could enter a peace accord with Lebanon in a matter of weeks if the Beirut government breaks from Syrian influence and guarantees the security of northern Israeli towns.

The assertion came amid a debate on whether Israel should unilaterally withdraw its forces from Lebanon following a mid-air collision of two helicopters this month that killed 73 Israeli soldiers on their way to a border strip the Jewish state occupies in South Lebanon.

The border strip, patrolled by Israeli soldiers and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen, serves as a buffer zone against guerrilla attacks against northern Israeli towns.

Speaking in an interview over the weekend in West Jerusalem, Mr. Mordechai was essentially renewing a so-called Lebanon-first option under which Israel would enter an accord with the Beirut government as the first step before negotiating a peace deal with Syria.

But it was the first time

that a senior Israeli official spelt out the Jewish state's clear perceptions of the proposal, which has been rejected by Beirut and Damascus.

"We can sign a peace agreement with Lebanon in two weeks," said Mr. Mordechai. "We do not have any arguments over our border with Lebanon or over any such issue."

"We are sure that Lebanon's army can fight terrorism and can be responsible for the entire Lebanese territory, including the border with Israel," he said.

"It just needs a very short time to write an agreement to redeploy the Lebanese army along the border with Israel and for (the Beirut government) to shoulder the responsibility for the situation in Lebanon if only the Syrians would allow that," he added.

"If the Syrians allow Lebanon, Lebanon can move forward tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, deploy forces in the southern Lebanon area and establish a new situation in the area and sign an agreement in a very short period of time," he said.

"Why do they need UNIFIL or any other foreign forces when they have

their own Lebanese army?" he said.

UNIFIL is a U.N. force deployed in South Lebanon following a limited Israeli invasion of its northern neighbour in 1978. Syrian-Israeli negotiations remain deadlocked over Damascus' demand for a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which the Jewish state occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and unilaterally annexed in 1981.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon, where it maintains around 35,000 soldiers, and Lebanese-Israeli peace talks are also stalled as a result of the Syrian-Israeli deadlock.

Israel has repeatedly accused Syria of using "terrorist activities" guerrilla attacks against the buffer zone in South Lebanon — to pressure Israel into accepting the demand for total withdrawal from the Golan as a precondition for peace talks.

Mr. Mordechai asserted that Israel, while retaliating for guerrilla attacks from South Lebanon, has been careful not to damage Lebanese military installations with a view to preserving Lebanon's ability to ensure security in a possible peace deal with the

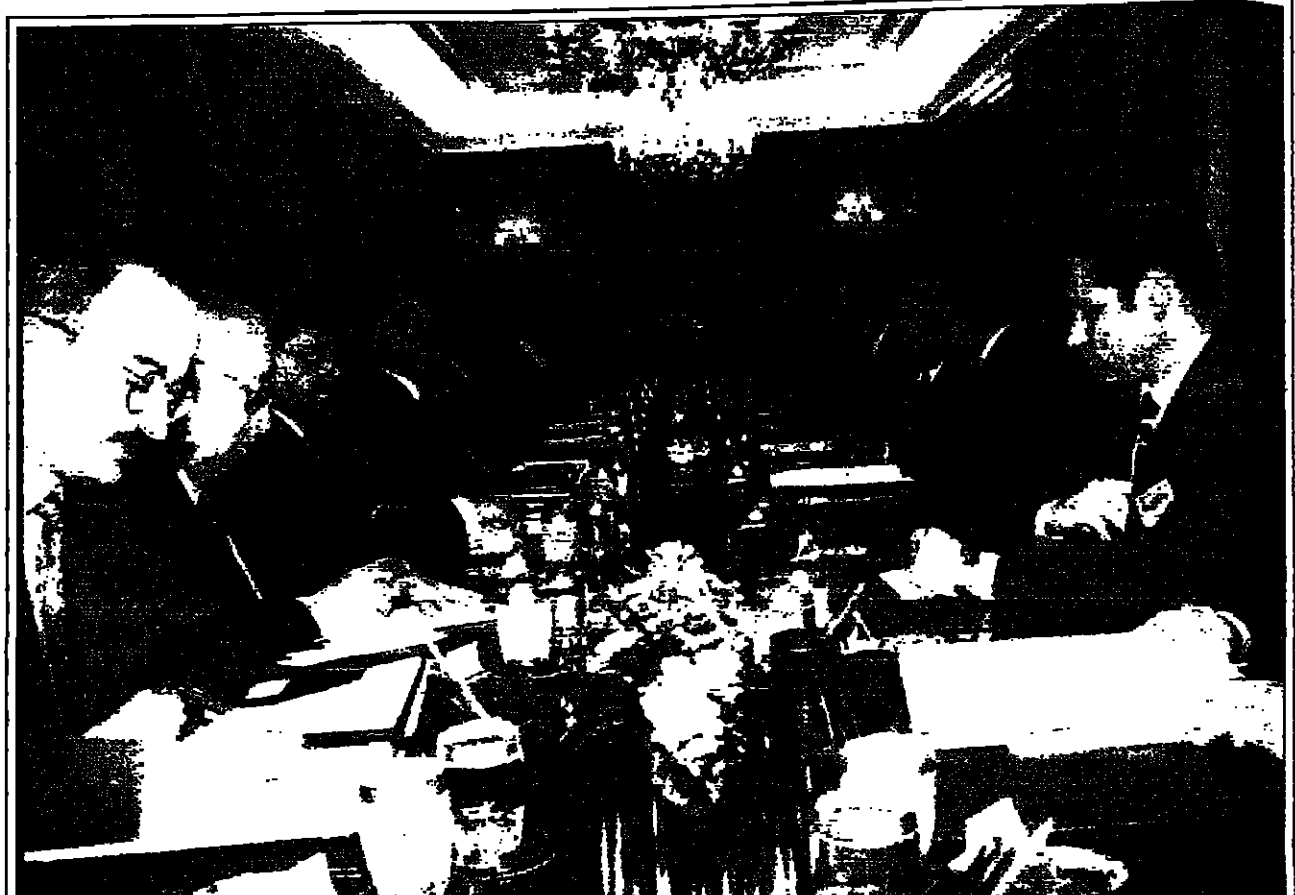
Jewish state.

"We allowed and did not damage the building of the Lebanese army in the last few years," said the defence minister, who took office in June after serving 33 years in the Israeli army.

"I have always tried my best not to damage the situation and all the time not to use our real power, not to do what we can really do in Lebanon and doing only what we have to do."

In the event of a peace accord with Lebanon, Israel will withdraw totally from the buffer strip and hold the Beirut government responsible for "only the security of our population in the north and the right of the southern Lebanese people."

The reference to southern Lebanese people was an implicit demand that members of Israel's client SLA militia should be absorbed into the Lebanese army as part of any agreement. The Lebanese government considers the 2,000-strong SLA as traitors and has outlawed it. "The South Lebanon Army is part of Lebanon's army, and they can join the regular army," said Mr. Mordechai. "They are South Lebanon's people, they are the bridge of life between Israel and Lebanon."



JORDANIAN-ISRAELI TALKS: His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu head Jordanian and Israeli delegations in talks that were held in Amman on Saturday during a working visit Mr. Netanyahu paid to Jordan (photo by Yousef Allan)

## Iraqis allowed to make pilgrimage for first time in 3 years

BAGHDAD (AP) — For the first time in three years, Iraqis will be allowed to perform the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest sites in Saudi Arabia, the government has announced.

The decision effectively reverses an edict in 1995 by Iraq's leading scholars urging Iraqis not to perform the pilgrimage. They declared that the money to travel would be better spent on Iraqis impoverished by U.N. sanctions imposed in 1990.

The edict was enforced by the government. Muslims are supposed to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, site of Islam's holiest shrines, at least once in a lifetime.

To travel to Mecca this year, Iraqis must pay \$330 for transportation and \$5,000 dinars (about \$65) for other expenses, the ministry of religious affairs said in the decision Saturday. The U.S. dollars can be purchased from banks run by the Iraqi government, which will organise the trip, it said.

The black market rate hovers around 1,300 dinars to the dollar. But those who travel will get a better deal at official banks, where the rate is 450 dinars to the dollar.

Iraqis must travel overland to neighbouring Saudi Arabia since U.N. sanctions ban flights in or out of Iraq.

Iraq last sent pilgrims in 1994 when more than 500 Iraqis took part. Under quotas established by Saudi Arabia, as many as 20,000 can go, but nowhere near that many were expected to travel since the money needed was far beyond the means of most Iraqis.

Sanctions imposed by the Security Council after Iraq invaded Kuwait have made life miserable for the overwhelming majority of Iraqis. By banning most of Iraq's oil exports, the sanctions have deprived Iraq of its main source of foreign currency.

Earlier this month, Iraq asked the United Nations to free \$50 million of its frozen assets held in Gulf states to help pay for the pilgrimage, which begins in April. It also requested U.N. approval to fly the pilgrims on Iraq's national airline.

But the U.N. committee overseeing the sanctions rejected the request, the Iraqi News Agency said Sunday. The United Nations ignored a similar request for last year's pilgrimage.

"This is not the first time the American and British administrations, with blind hatred, have rejected an Iraqi request," Abdul-Moneim Ahmad Aaleh, the religious affairs minister, was quoted as saying by the agency.

## Taura prepares for papal visit to Lebanon in May

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Three years after a church bombing kept him away, Pope John Paul II plans to travel to Lebanon in May on a trip that will be keenly felt across the Middle East.

The Vatican has not officially announced the trip, saying only it is under study. But church officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Vatican was aiming at May 10 for an overnight visit by the pontiff.

A flurry of planning started this weekend. The Vatican's foreign minister, Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, travelled to Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, and Lebanese officials and prelates came to the Vatican for meetings with the pontiff. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was to have an audience Monday.

The main reason stated for the journey is the Pope's response to the work of a synod, or meeting, of Lebanese bishops at the Vatican in the fall of 1995.

The bishops issued a sharp call for the withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces from Lebanon, Israel, Syrian and the Palestinians — three parties that attract close Vatican interest — will be listening very carefully to what the Pope says on the matter.

Israel controls about 15 per cent of Lebanese territory, a swathe of land in the south it claims as a buffer zone. Syria maintains about 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

The Vatican has been pushing for their withdrawals quietly through diplomatic channels, and it is unlikely John Paul will directly call for such

a move but could well hint at it, Vatican officials said.

"The Holy Father is very aware of the situation, and that Lebanon is in need of regaining its sovereignty, its independence, its liberty," Lebanese Cardinal Nasrallah Pierre Sfeir said in an interview this weekend while in Rome to see the Pope.

A papal trip to Lebanon comes within an intricate and delicate Vatican policy towards the Middle East.

Despite a warming towards Israel that resulted in full diplomatic ties three years ago, friction remains over the Vatican's desire for international "open city" status for Jerusalem — part of which Israel occupies and which the Jewish state claims as its capital. The pontiff long has expressed his goal to visit the Holy City by the new millennium.

The Pope also is concerned about the small Christian community in Syria and his flock elsewhere in the Muslim-dominated Middle East.

John Paul has called Lebanon a symbol of Christian-Muslim relations, one of the major themes of his papacy in recent years. "Lebanon is more than a country, it is a message ... of dialogue and living together," John Paul often has said.

Cardinal Sfeir, leader of the Maronite Church, is the senior Catholic patriarch in Lebanon. Slightly less than half Lebanon's population of four million is believed to be Christian, with the majority Maronite. The country also has Protestant and Orthodox denominations.

## High-powered Saudi team to hold talks in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — A high-powered Saudi Arabian delegation flies to Washington on Monday to strike up an acquaintance with the new Clinton administration and allay concerns over the probe into last year's bombing against Americans in the kingdom.

Led by Defence Minister Prince Sultan, representing his brother, King Fahd, the team includes key decision-makers including Saudi Arabia's foreign, oil and trade ministers and a deputy finance minister.

During the visit, which lasts until Friday, they will meet President Bill Clinton and top U.S. cabinet officials for talks ranging from Gulf security and Saudi defence needs to the Middle East peace process and oil strategy.

"This is truly a very important trip for us," a senior Saudi diplomat said. "This is a new administration for practical purposes — second term, change in national security team... We feel this is as good a time as any to sit down at the highest level and take a look at the next four years."

The close U.S.-Saudi relationship has been dogged in recent months by U.S. complaints that Riyadh was not sharing enough information on its investigation into last June's truck bombing that killed 19 American servicemen in Dhahran.

Both U.S. and Saudi officials say a number of suspects have been arrested, but as recently as Feb. 12, a senior Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) official told congress that Saudi authorities had still not provided evidence the United States wanted.

The senior Saudi diplomat, briefing reporters on condition he was not identified, said he believed the problem was now "history", but added: "It would be nice to kill it once and for all" this week.

Another Saudi source said: "We are way further ahead than many people believe we are" in the investigation.

Since the bombing, most of the 5,000 U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia, whose main task is to enforce a "no-fly-zone" over southern Iraq, have been moved away from populated centres to more remote and easily pro-

tected locations.

The Saudi diplomat said their presence was reviewed at regular intervals and no formal agreement to make it permanent had been either requested by Saudi Arabia or proposed by the United States.

While Riyadh has firmly backed Washington's tough policy of maintaining U.N. sanctions on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Saudi officials said their concern about possible chaos if President Saddam Hussein falls could come up this week.

"The strategic question is we are thinking for the post-Saddam era?" one said. "Do we have a plan for what we do when that regime collapses?"

Washington sees strong Saudi defences as a key element in Gulf stability, and Saudi officials have made clear they would like to replace their ageing fleet of 114 U.S. F-5 fighters, probably with F-16s.

Prince Sultan, however, earlier this month denied U.S. press reports that he would seek to purchase the Lockheed Martin F-16s during this week's trip. The reports have already raised concerns in Israel.

U.S. leaders are expected to press the Saudis to continue moves towards normalisation with Israel, despite last year's advent to power of a right-wing Likud administration. But Saudi Arabia, like other Arab states, believes it is up to Israel to make the first move by agreeing to give up occupied Arab land.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali Naimi is expected to discuss the oil market situation and international negotiations for a climate change treaty with acting U.S. energy Secretary Charles Curtis, U.S. officials said.

An Energy Department official said Washington planned to raise the possible leasing out of space in the U.S. strategic petroleum reserve to Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and exporter.

Gulf sources said, however, they did not expect any oil-for-arms deal to be discussed.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19  
PROGRAMME TWO

14:08 ..... Muppet Show  
14:30 ..... Cartoon — Captain Planet  
15:00 ..... French Programmes  
16:00 ..... Nature's Inventions  
16:30 ..... Deep Water Haven  
17:00 ..... News Flash  
17:02 ..... American Chart Show  
18:00 ..... French Programmes  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:35 ..... Comedy — Roseanne  
20:00 ..... Doc — Discover Magazine  
20:30 ..... Babylon-5  
21:10 ..... Extreme  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:25 ..... Under Suspicion  
23:00 ..... Police Drama — Hunter  
23:59 ..... Comedy — Dad's Army

### PRAYER TIMES

04:13 ..... Fajr  
05:31 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:42 ..... Dhuhr  
15:11 ..... Asr  
17:53 ..... Maghreb  
19:10 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweithfeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Amman International Church  
Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Rainy, cold, and cloudy weather conditions will prevail with snow falling over hilly areas that are 1,100 metres above sea level and winds westerly active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy and winds southerly moderate. Scattered showers are expected and seas will be high.

Min/Max temp.  
Amman ..... 03/08  
Aqaba ..... 10/17  
Deserts ..... 03/10

Jordan Valley ..... 09/16  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 08, Aqaba 18 Humidity  
readings: Amman 99 per cent,  
Aqaba 50 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Wafiq Qaddoumi ..... 893542  
Dr. Bahjat Bader ..... 832642  
Dr. Naser Ibrahim ..... 830432  
Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghoul 790730  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy. 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847652  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ghazi Tamneh ..... 250080  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Waleed Nabhan ..... 995743  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341  
Rescue Police ..... 192.621111.637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Dept. ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water & Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
J. Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Co. ..... 636381  
RF Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITAL

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 81381332  
Khaldi Maternity ..... 64428116  
Akileh Maternity ..... 6424412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612637  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6661646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775112/6  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/5  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199

### ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital  
07:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
08:35 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
08:55 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:45 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:50 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
16:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
16:25 ..... London (RJ)  
16:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:05 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
22:20 ..... Casablanca (RJ)  
03:40 ..... Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

### IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital  
02:275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital  
02:272775  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital  
02:247100

### AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital  
03:314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
08:35 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
08:55 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:45 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:50 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
16:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
16:25 ..... London (RJ)  
16:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:05 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
22:20 ..... Casablanca (RJ)  
03:40 ..... Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

### Other Flights

05:45 ..... Khartoum (SD)  
09:30 ..... Cairo (MS)  
12:00 ..... Doha (Q7)  
12:40 ..... Bahrain (GF)  
15:05 ..... Vienna (OS)  
21:00 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:40 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
22:45 ..... Athens, Beirut (OA)  
00:30 ..... London, Damascus (BA)  
01:20 ..... Amsterdam, Damascus (KL)

05:05 ..... London (KJ)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:20 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
20:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
09:50 ..... Casablanca (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
12:15 ..... London (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
23:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
05:45 ..... Marka, Aqaba (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:00 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
07:35 ..... Beirut, London (BA)  
07:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
10:20 ..... Cairo (MS)  
13:00 ..... Doha (Q7)  
13:30 ..... Bahrain (GF)  
15:50 ..... Vienna (OS)  
22:55 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
02:30 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)  
03:00 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 ..... Beirut, Athens (OA)  
07:30 ..... London (KJ)  
07:35 ..... Damascus, London (BA)

### Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 ..... Marka Airport (from QAIA) (RW)  
20:30 ..... Aqaba (RW)

### HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:01 am every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 pm every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 am every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 pm every Sunday

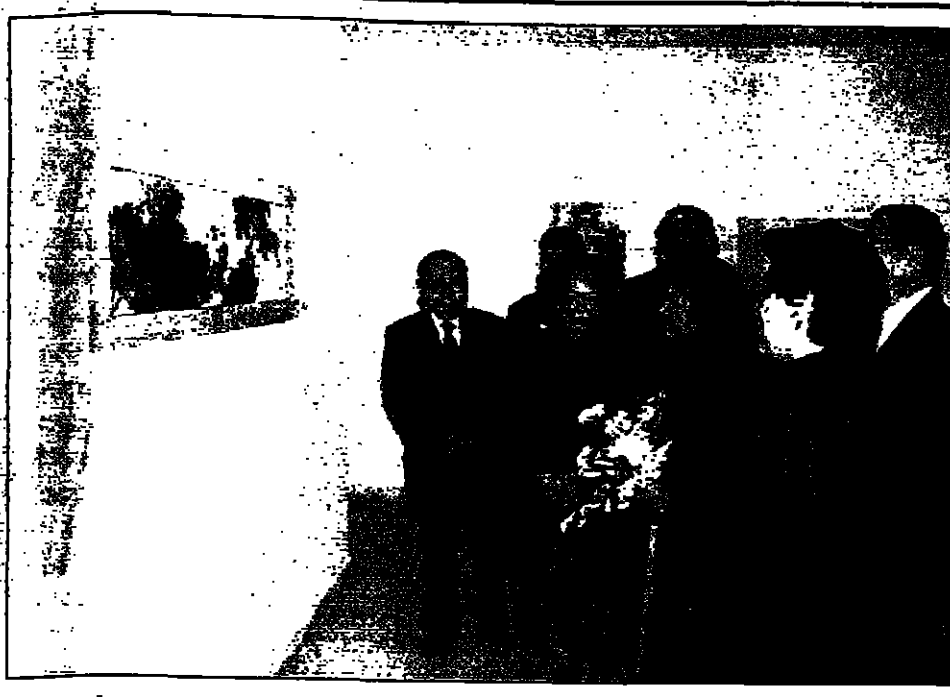
### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700/500  
Banana ..... 600/600  
Banana (imported) ..... 1000/900  
Cabbage ..... 90/50  
Carrot ..... 180/100  
Cauliflower ..... 280/150  
Cucumber (large) ..... 170/120  
Cucumber (small) ..... 250/150  
Eggplant ..... 220/120  
Fava beans ..... 800/700  
Garlic ..... 1115/900  
Grape fruit ..... 190/100  
Lemon ..... 400/320  
Marrow (large) ..... 300/150  
Marrow (small) ..... 480/200  
Onion (green) ..... 300/120  
Onion (dry) ..... 190/120  
Orange ..... 450/250  
Peas ..... 800/500  
Pepper (hot) ..... 280/120  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 500/300  
Potato ..... 300/150  
Radish ..... 90/50  
Spinach ..... 210/140  
String beans ..... 850/500  
Tomato ..... 250/140



Lebanese and Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu that were held in Amman on Saturday of last week.



Under the patronage of HRH Princess Sarvath, an art exhibition by Taiwanese artists opened Saturday in Amman at the National Arts Gallery. The exhibition has been organised by the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA) of which the Princess is president. The proceeds of the exhibition will benefit the YMWA (Photo by Boghos)

## Lebanese and Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu that were held in Amman on Saturday of last week.

Lebanese and Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu that were held in Amman on Saturday of last week. The meeting was held at the Royal Palace in Amman. The two leaders discussed the current situation in the Middle East and the role of Jordan in the peace process. They also discussed the economic and cultural relations between Jordan and Lebanon. The meeting was attended by a number of high-ranking officials from both countries. The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere. The two leaders expressed their commitment to the peace process and to the development of the region. They also discussed the role of Jordan in the peace process and the importance of maintaining stability in the region. The meeting was a success and it was hoped that it would lead to further cooperation between Jordan and Lebanon.

## JDAR

JDAR is a journal of the Jordanian Development Bank. It is a quarterly publication that provides information on the activities of the bank and the development of Jordan. It is a valuable source of information for anyone interested in the development of Jordan. The journal is published in Arabic and English. It is available to the public at a cost of JD1.00 per copy. The journal is published by the Jordanian Development Bank, which is a government-owned institution. The journal is a valuable source of information for anyone interested in the development of Jordan. It is available to the public at a cost of JD1.00 per copy. The journal is published by the Jordanian Development Bank, which is a government-owned institution.

## Crown Prince receives Greek delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received a military delegation from the Greek Defence College, headed by Brigadier General Dimitrios Pipi Likakisat, at the Royal Court. The Crown Prince and the visiting delegation reviewed regional situations as well as bilateral cooperation. Prince Hassan briefed the delegation on the Jordanian role in supporting the peace process and safeguarding regional security and stability. He praised Jordanian relations with European security institutions, and emphasised the Kingdom's role in establishing cooperation between Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Training Ghazi Tayeb, Murah University Vice President for Military Affairs Ma'rouf Bakht, Commander of the Royal War College Abdul Jalil Maaitah, President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Hani Mulki, Greek Ambassador to Jordan Aristidis Sandis and the Greek Military Attaché to Jordan Emanuel Kanavakis.

## 12 persons arrested for embezzlement in Zarqa

AMMAN (Petra) — Twelve persons, including six government officials, were arrested on charges of embezzlement committed at the Zarqa Free Zone, according to a joint announcement released Saturday by the Department for Combating Corruption as well as the Customs Department. The statement delineated a total of JD750,000 as embezzled through tampering with receipts issued for the payment of customs fees on vehicles taken from the free zone area. Various goods brought into the free zone are normally exempt from customs duty, pending their re-export, but should importers want to bring them into local markets, the statement said. The statement described senior customs officers as spotting the embezzlement during a routine check. The suspects apparently issued the first and second carbon copies of receipts to vehicle owners, bearing the amount of the fees paid, but were producing the third and fourth carbon copies to their superiors, recording much lower amounts and pocketing the difference, it said. Citing one example of this embezzlement, the statement maintained that for one new Mercedes, a mere 230 fils appeared on an official receipt handed to the Customs Department, while the customs duty on that particular car actually amounted to JD 30,000. In some of the cited cases, vehicle owners were apparently actually cognisant of such embezzlement and in one case a car was taken from the free zone area without its owners paying a single fils in customs duty, according to the statement. The suspects were reported to the prosecutor general and investigations are underway.

## Committee reviews tourism projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irshaidat Sunday chaired a committee meeting to review progress in plans for implementing tourist projects, financed through a Japanese grant. Subsequent to the meeting, the committee released a statement stating that six projects are slated to be developed in the Amman region, the first of which regards central Amman, where a modern bus station and alleys linking the Roman Amphitheatre with the archaeological citadel are to be implemented at the cost of JD3 million. The committee also reviewed plans for creating a National Museum at Ras Al Ain at the estimated cost of JD12 million, a tourist road linking the Dead Sea with the city of Madaba at the estimated cost of JD9 million, a Dead Sea panorama for JD4 million, the development of tourist facilities in Karak at the estimated cost of JD5 million and a tourist development centre in Salt for JD6 million. These projects and others, scheduled to be executed in 1998, involve collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works, the Department of Antiquities, the Amman municipality, the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), and the Karak and Salt municipalities. Dr. Irshaidat maintained that the development plan covers preservation of archaeological sites as well as a balance between tourist development and antiquity protection. According to the statement, agreement was reached between the ministry and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which conducted a feasibility study on these projects, that the JICA submit a detailed programme for the implementation of development plans so that the various departments involved might make arrangements for their work therein. They also agreed that each of the concerned departments form technical committees to submit proposals pertaining to the execution of these plans. Dr. Irshaidat maintained that Jordan anticipates a rise in tourism over the next few years and that it is incumbent on the Kingdom to construct visitor facilities in conjunction with the private sector. The committee, formed by the Council of Ministers, groups representatives of the Department of Antiquities, the municipalities of Amman, Karak and Salt, the JVA and the Ministry of Planning. Also Sunday, Dr. Irshaidat met with a German press delegation, invited by the Ministry of Tourism to explore archaeological sites and publicise them in an international Berlin tourism exhibit to be held between March 8th and 12th.

## Ensour meets with visiting Sudanese minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour Sunday told visiting Sudanese Minister of Agriculture Nafec Ali that Jordan is ready to offer assistance to Sudan in the fields of agriculture and higher education and is equally ready to renew bilateral agreements, previously concluded between the two countries. Dr. Ensour maintained that Jordan supports Sudanese efforts to ameliorate these two fields. Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat also attended the meeting. Earlier Sunday, Dr. Shneikat held a meeting with the Sudanese minister and discussed prospects for launching joint Jordanian-Sudanese agricultural projects concerning livestock and farming with the aid of the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation. The organisation had earlier implemented projects in Sudan, following a drought which struck that country. The two sides also discussed Jordanian purchases of meat and live sheep as well as the Kingdom's exportation of fertilisers to the African country, something which, they affirmed, will be covered in detail by a bilateral committee, due to convene in Amman next month. Dr. Ensour subsequently received Director of the Sudanese Ministry of Higher Education's Foreign Relations Department Mohammad Mirghani and the two discussed cooperation in higher education, possible exchanges of university teachers and expertise and scholarships for students to study in the other's country as outlined in a previously signed Jordanian-Sudanese cultural protocol. Mr. Mirghani described his country as eager to benefit from Jordanian expertise in higher education and prepared to develop an executive programme for the implementation of the cultural agreement.

## Ministry proposes measures to limit tribal revenge

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior is proposing new measures to limit tribal revenge in cases of murder and rape, a local daily newspaper reported Sunday. While tribal traditional law is neither legally sanctioned nor written, the government does recognise their influence in certain jurisdictions. According to Al Aswaaq Arabic daily, the ministry is recommending to the Cabinet that it exile from a district where a rape or murder has been purported to take place be restricted to the alleged killer or rapist and his immediate relatives. The ministry also suggested that any attack, burning or looting of the perpetrator's property be considered a separate crime and handled in accordance with existing civil law. According to lawyer Emile Rawashdeh, tribal laws and traditions require that "all male relatives of an alleged killer or rapist, including cousins, brothers and siblings, back to the great, great grandfather, leave the region in which the crime was committed until the case is settled." According to the new ministry proposal, however, the measure would be restricted to the brothers and children of the alleged perpetrator, Al Aswaaq reported. According to Mr. Rawashdeh, tribal custom dictates that exiles should leave their town for another. The ministry proposes that exiles be forced to move no further than a location within the same governorate or city in which they previously resided, or from one neighbourhood to another. Also, the ministry stated, relatives of the perpetrator should not be sought out by the relatives of the victim in order to take revenge if the former work in government departments or are hospitalised. According to Attorney Rawashdeh, within the dictates of tribal law, any person committing premeditated murder or manslaughter must seek exile until a tribal reconciliation is reached. According to the Kingdom's penal code, "any man who engages in sexual intercourse with a virgin must either marry her or face retribution," Mr. Rawashdeh affirmed. Rape is punishable by law. However, in the case of adultery, if the two involved are consenting adults, they are not liable for legal process unless a relative or a spouse appeals to court, he said. According to Mr. Rawashdeh, tribal disputes regarding "crimes of passion" and murder are causing "great problems" for those authorities who must ensure the safety of an entire tribe "in the case that a crime is committed." The ministry requested that its suggested regulations be assiduously applied, Al Aswaaq reported.

## Islamists and opposition groups condemn Israeli premier's visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian Islamists and opposition groups Sunday expressed dismay at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Amman and demanded that all political groups condemn the visit. The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party said in a statement: "Netanyahu is being welcomed for talks in Amman at a time when he continues to declare, on every occasion, his plans for Judaizing Jerusalem which he considers as Israel's united and eternal capital and pursues the construction of settlements, particularly that of Jabal Abu Ghneim near Jerusalem." Mr. Netanyahu is making the visit after opening a new entrance to a tunnel near Al Aqsa Mosque and while "pursuing the practice of murdering the Arab people of Palestine, Jerusalem and Lebanon," added the IAF statement. "The blood of the Jordan Armed Forces, which was shed on Jerusalem's walls and in all of Palestine, cries out in condemnation of Netanyahu's visit as well as any negotiations with the terrorist, the murderer and the sponsor of Jewish settlements," it said. "Our duty compels us to reject this aggressor visit in Amman and to stand by our nation," it stated. A statement by Parliamentary opposition groups also voiced condemnation of the visit "which is taking place at a time when Israel continues to infringe on the Palestinian people's rights." "It is regrettable to see the government, which has committed itself to implementing all the provisions of the Wadi Araba treaty, refraining from holding Netanyahu to account for his actions and to see the government adopting the present policy of relations with the Zionist state, while not listening to the voice of the Jordanian people who reject all of these humiliating capitulations," it said. The statement criticised the government for what it called an opening of doors to the enemies of the nation less than 24 hours after "these enemies announced their intention to Judaize Jerusalem and build more Jewish settlements."

## Minister leaves for Iran today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Marketing Jordanian pharmaceutical products in Iran and Iranian medicines in Jordan will be among the main topics to be discussed while Health Minister Aref Bataineh visits Iran this week. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Bataineh explained that while in Iran he will examine primary health and medical services and review prospects for promoting health cooperation between Iran and Jordan. The minister also affirmed that he would discuss questions related to the registration of Iranian and Jordanian medicines in the two countries and their joint marketing. Dr. Bataineh confirmed that he will deliver a lecture in Tehran covering the Kingdom's medical services and health situation as well as the existing public health insurance system. The group will first visit Bahrain and discuss similar issues with Bahraini Minister of Health Faisal Mousawi. The minister will be accompanied on his visit by a team of ministry officials as well as representatives of the private sector. Last year, Dr. Bataineh visited Algeria where he concluded protocols regarding the treatment of Algerians in Jordan as well as Jordanian pharmaceutical exports to Algeria.

## HUDC director elected chairman of pan-Arab expert committee

CAIRO (Petra) — Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) Yousef Hiyasat was Sunday elected chairman of a committee of experts currently developing a pan-Arab strategy on housing and shelter in Cairo. The committee will be submitting its strategy for approval by the Arab ministers of housing and reconstruction at an upcoming meeting, Mr. Hiyasat said. He described this strategy as the implementation of a resolution passed by a U.N. conference on human settlements (Habitat), held in Istanbul last June. The committee will examine the Istanbul Declaration on Habitat as well as a report by the UN secretary general on Habitat as presented to the general assembly last fall in the course of developing this strategy. Mr. Hiyasat described the committee as considering issues such as the involvement of Arab women in the development of human settlements, responding to real needs of local communities and supporting the work of Arab institutions linked with Habitat. The strategy is expected to contribute to Arab needs in terms of training personnel, establishing a data base, providing information on urban development, participation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Arab international cooperation in urban development, he said.

## What's Going On

- FILM**
  - \* "Regarde les hommes tomber" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, at 8:30 p.m.
- WORLDNET DIALOGUE**
  - \* Worldnet Dialogue via satellite on "Women's Rights and Issues" at the American Centre Auditorium, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (The programme will focus on the promotion and recognition of women's rights and surrounding issues). The dialogue will be between participants in Washington and panelists in Amman, Karachi, Dhaka and Doha. The Washington programme hosts Theresa Loar, the U.S. State Department senior coordinator for international women's issues, and Sharifa Al Khateeb, from the North American Council for Muslim Women. Jordan will be represented by Salwa Naser, the coordinator for NGOs at the Jordan National Committee for Women and Ghada Kamhawi, a lawyer.
- SLIDE LECTURE**
  - \* Slide lecture "The Jordanian-French Project of Copying the Paintings of Quseir 'Amra" by architect Claude Vibert, at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Ammanat 6:00 p.m. (The event, sponsored by the Friends of Archaeology (FoA), to be preceded by the FoA open annual general meeting.)
- CONCERT**
  - \* Performance by The Upper Austrian Wind Soloist at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- LECTURE**
  - \* "Where It All Began" by Dr. Noha Hommad and Mrs. Anna Obeidat at the British Council at 6:00 p.m.
- EXHIBITIONS**
  - \* Display of Jordanian children's drawings at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman, until March 3.
  - \* Works by artists Chao Song-Yun, Li Chi-Mao, and Shen Cheen at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Art, until Feb. 25.
  - \* Works by artist Amanda Shebadeh at the French Cultural Centre, until March 6.
  - \* Display of Jordan River Designs Products, Jabal Amman (Tel. 613081/2) until Feb. 28.
  - \* Art exhibition by Naziha Salim at Orient Gallery, Isami Ajlouni St., Shmeisani, until Feb. 28.
  - \* Bani Hamida exhibition of handicrafts (rugs, cushions, runners, and wall-hangings, Jabal Amman (Tel. 658696/7), until Feb. 28.
  - \* Works by contemporary Arab artists entitled "The New Collection" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, (Tel. 643251/2), until Feb. 27.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

- Jordan to take part in Iraqi seminar**

AMMAN (Petra) — The Kingdom is scheduled to participate in a workshop regarding the usage of saline and semi-saline water in agriculture, organised by the Baghdad University and scheduled to run from Feb. 24 through March 6.
- IDB grants loans worth JD 4m**

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) proffered 12 loans in January totalling JD4 million to finance industrial projects. These projects have been estimated to have provided 450 job opportunities.
- Tourism seminar held at Yarmouk**

IRBID (Petra) — The Yarmouk University Anthropology Department Sunday held a seminar on the role of anthropology in tourist development. University President Marwan Kamal maintained that Jordan boasts many natural, historic and geographic sites, which also benefit the tourist industry.



## China's security forces tighten grip ahead of Deng's funeral

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese security forces tightened their grip on the capital Sunday as President Jiang Zemin stepped up controls to ensure calm before Deng Xiaoping's funeral.

The men were detained and there was no confirmation whether the pistol and rifle found in a bag they were carrying were fake or real, but the incident showed the increased tension as uniformed people's armed police implemented random searches through Tiananmen Square and its vicinity.

Throughout the square, the heavy presence of plain-clothed and uniformed police created a tense air in contrast to the nonchalant atmosphere immediately following patriarch Deng's death late Wednesday.

While soldiers and plain-clothed officers were happy to let visitors have their photographs taken in front of the national flag flying at half-mast, they let no one approach the monument to the martyrs further down the square — where a number of anti-government demonstrations have started in

the past.

Anyone carrying flowers or wreaths for Mr. Deng, who died at the age of 92 Wednesday, was immediately stopped.

The two men carrying guns were stopped as they walked under the massive portrait of Mao Tsetong at the north end of Tiananmen Square.

A group of plain-clothed security officers swiftly moved in, pushed other people away and blocked all further view.

Both the police precinct and the Beijing Public Security Bureau refused to comment on the incident.

The strong security grip reflected an anxiety to minimise the chances of any spontaneous expression of grief or political demonstration in the wake of the death of Deng or during his funeral in the Great Hall of the People beside the square Tuesday.

Public anger at the Chinese government was voiced during the funeral of former Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang in 1989, and led to the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square that were

crushed by the army on June 4.

More than a decade earlier, demonstrations broke out in the square after the death of late Premier Zhou Enlai in 1976.

Further afield, police in Chengdu, the capital of Deng's native province of Sichuan, said they dispersed spontaneous mourning demonstrations that started early Thursday upon news of his death.

Only in Deng's remote birthplace, the small village of Paifang, did China's security apparatus openly allow demonstrations of grief.

Some 40,000 people descended on his family home Sunday, bringing to 70,000 the total to have paid their respects there, a caretaker said.

She said there was no hostility from local police, who were simply controlling traffic in and out of the tiny village, where Deng was born in the 14-room house in 1904.

President Jiang Zemin, who is Deng's appointed successor and chairs the funeral committee, has moved swiftly to stop any obstacles coming between him and the mantle of ultimate con-

trol over China.

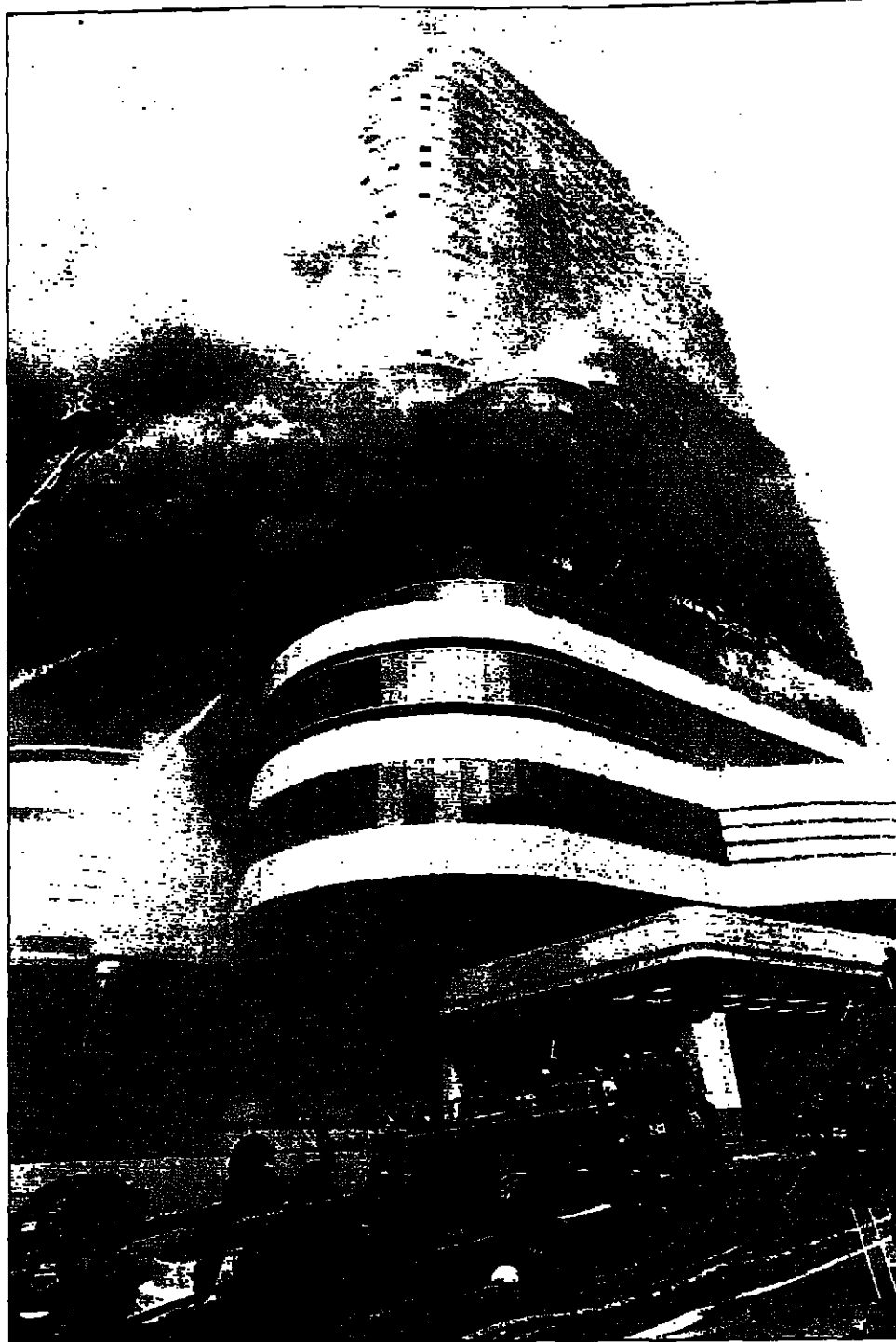
But his grip on power does not appear absolute and the orchestrated calm that pervades the capital has led observers to fear that all may not be as serene as it looks.

Workers and students refused to be drawn on their lack of mourning for Deng, which was in stark contrast to that shown for late party Chairman Mao Tsetong.

They all said they were waiting to see what would happen, which was a marked shift from the initial apathy expressed as news of Mr. Deng's death emerged.

In a further move to protect himself against any political infighting or spontaneous demonstrations, Mr. Jiang has also barred his disgraced predecessor Zhao Ziyang from coming to Beijing and attending Mr. Deng's state funeral Tuesday, the Hong Kong-based Sing Tao daily quoted a source in Beijing as saying.

Mr. Jiang became Deng's appointed successor after Mr. Zhao was ousted during a fierce political rift over the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square.



Smoke bellows out from the sixth and seventh floor of 36-storey central Bangkok building, as firefighters try to extinguish flames Sunday (Reuters photo)

## Three dead, over 100 rescued in Bangkok towering inferno

BANGKOK (AFP) — Fire swept through a brand new 36-storey building here Sunday killing three people while scores had to be airlifted to safety on the eve of the opening of some offices in the multi-million tower block, police said.

Strong winds and billowing, thick smoke hampered firefighters but police reported that over 100 stranded inside the burning building had been lifted to safety by six helicopters flown in to the rescue.

The death toll rose to three after rescuers found a charred body on the fourth floor of the building.

Two died earlier after falling to the ground as they tried to escape the flames, which licked up the side of the President Tower in the Thai capital's Ploenchit road, witnesses said.

Eight survivors were rushed to nearby police hospital with serious injuries, including one man in intensive care with burns to over 90 per cent of his body, said a senior hospital official. Major General Somsak Vatanand.

"The first man was hanging out the window but it was too hot and he dropped to the ground. I didn't know how to help," said one distraught witness speaking to television reporters.

"I could see the other guy but I knew I couldn't help him. I walked away," he said.

Witnesses said that some of those who were wounded had a miraculous escape after they leapt from as high as the 10th floor.

Deputy Interior Minister Chalermporn Srivikorn said that a total of 101 survivors were taken to hospital for check-ups. Some 24 had minor injuries.

Thousands of onlookers gathered as six helicopters were brought in to winch up the trapped. One craft crashed when a rotary blade was shorn off by a tree and electricity cables, but it managed to land safely.

Firefighters also moved in to battle the blaze from the ground but their hoses could only reach the eighth floor.

Most of those trapped inside were construction workers still working on the building which is only partially opened. Others were office workers decorating their offices to be opened Monday.

The fire broke out in the late morning at about 11 a.m. (0400 GMT) following an electrical fault. It was finally extinguished some five and half hours later, the facing blue tinted windows charred black on the lower storeys.

Chairman Srivikorn, chairman of the President Tower Company said the building is valued at 2.4 billion baht (\$96 million) and is insured for 1.5 billion baht.

Those who died were named by police as Sinthawee Inpiu, 35, from Mukdahan province and Souphan Namuang, 37, of Lampang province, who had been installing furniture in a new office in the President Tower.

Police said the third fatality could not immediately be identified as man or woman because the body had been burned so badly.

Bangkok Governor Bhichit Rattakul said that more than 40 city fire engines had rushed to the scene, while a further 51 were sent from the Police Fire Brigade Division.

He announced late Sunday that the area surrounding the skyscraper had been pronounced a danger zone and was off-limits.

The deputy interior minister said at the scene that an air conditioning system being repaired on the seventh floor had caught fire in an office which was about to be opened.

"I think that no lives would have been lost if people had not panicked. If they had stayed and waited for rescuers, those who died could have survived," he said.

One survivor, Yongyot said he had heard two explosions and seen people fleeing through the ground-floor entrance. Blocked by the blaze, some had leapt for their lives.

Those who died were named by police as Sinthawee Inpiu, 35, from Mukdahan province and Souphan Namuang, 37, of Lampang province, who had been installing furniture in a new office in the President Tower.

Police said the third fatality could not immediately be identified as man or woman because the body had been burned so badly.

## Bhutto weeps at brother's murder probe

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan's former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wept as she told a judicial tribunal Saturday she believed the killing of her estranged brother Murtaza was part of a conspiracy to topple her government.

She accused President Farooq Leghari of conducting psychological warfare against her before sacking her three-year-old government on Nov. 5 on disputed charges of corruption and misuse.

"The plan behind it was to overthrow my government," Ms. Bhutto said of Murtaza's death in a Sept. 20 police shootout outside his home in Karachi's seaside Clifton area.

Before attending the three-judge inquiry into the killing, she caressed a black goat at her fortress-like Bilawal House residence

where the animal was slaughtered as a traditional sacrifice to ward off evil spirits.

Karachi's Supreme Court building was guarded by more than 100 armed police and paramilitary rangars.

Ms. Bhutto's father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was toppled as prime minister in a 1977 army coup and executed in 1979 after a controversial conviction for conspiring in the murder of a political opponent.

Her youngest brother Shahnawaz died of suspected poisoning in France in 1985.

Her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was routed in Feb. 3 elections, which gave a landslide victory to new Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League Party.

Ms. Bhutto accused unspecified "hidden hands and

moving shadows" of conspiring to overthrow her when she decided to move a vote of confidence in the previous National Assembly (lower house).

Mr. Leghari denies that he conspired to remove Ms. Bhutto, who got him elected as president after 1993 general elections won by the PPP.

Mrs. Bhutto said Mr. Leghari's agenda was to "hijack" the PPP and become the president for a second term. "He wanted to be de facto president and de facto prime minister."

Members of Murtaza's breakaway Shaheed Bhutto faction of the PPP accuse Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari of conspiring in their leader's murder. Mr. Zardari, in jail since his wife's ouster, denies the charge.

Work had been completed on the Armenian side and was almost finished on the Iranian side, Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Galustian as saying. Following the link-up, tests would be carried out in the first two weeks of March.

## Azerbaijan attacks Russian arms sales to Armenia

BAKU (R) — Azerbaijan has strongly protested against alleged Russian arms supplies to its enemy Armenia and called for an investigation by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Aman Tuleev, Russian minister for cooperation with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, said last week that 84 T-72 tanks and 50 infantry combat vehicles had been transferred from Russia to Armenia from 1994 to 1996.

A statement by the Azeri Foreign Ministry Saturday said the shipments were "a gross violation of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement." The agreement limits the amount of heavy conventional weaponry that member countries may station in certain areas.

Armenia Friday denied having received the weapons at all.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been embroiled in a nine-year conflict over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is populated by ethnic Armenians but surrounded by Azeri territory.

War over the issue killed more than 15,000 people before a ceasefire was declared in 1994 after massive Armenian territorial gains.

Talks to resolve the issue, in which Russia and the OSCE have taken a mediating role, are deadlocked and the prospects for a settlement seem remote.

The Azeri statement said the alleged arms shipments "dealt a blow to the authority of the Russian Federation and to its role as an intermediary in the Armenian-Azeri conflict."

It demanded Russia and the OSCE "carry out an inspection on the territory of Armenia and the territories of Azerbaijan which it has occupied." Twenty per cent of Azeri territory is now controlled by Armenian forces.

Mr. Tuleev said the shipments had been "in violation of proper procedure and without the permission of the government."

"At the same time a Russian delegation is conducting talks with Azerbaijan on development of bilateral trade and economic relations, behind its back. Armenia gets military hardware from Moscow," he said.

Mr. Tuleev said the arms, worth 271 billion roubles (\$48 million) had yet to be paid for and called the issue a further hindrance to the process of integration among CIS states. He demanded an investigation by Russia's chief prosecutor.

Azeri officials have regularly accused Russia of aiding Armenia in the conflict. Armenia and Russia have deep historical ties and many Armenians see Russia as a protector against their longtime enemy and neighbour Turkey, which has close cultural and political ties with Azerbaijan.

In a separate development, Armenia and Iran are to interconnect their electricity grids next week in a move which should ease the former's critical power shortage. Armenia's energy minister was quoted as saying Saturday.

Karen Galustian said an agreement had been reached when he visited Iran from Feb. 15 to 20, and the connection would be made over the Arax River which separates the two countries.

Work had been completed on the Armenian side and was almost finished on the Iranian side, Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Galustian as saying. Following the link-up, tests would be carried out in the first two weeks of March.

## Taleban crush revolt in east Afghanistan

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghanistan's Taliban militia Sunday said it had crushed a week-long tribal revolt in eastern Kunar province after overthrowing the rebels' key stronghold at Asmar town.

"The Taleban have captured Asmar" in an overnight offensive, forcing the rebels to flee towards the mountains in the north, the Pakistan-based private Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said, quoting a Taleban official.

Three Kunar tribes — the Salarzai, Mashwani and Gujar — had staged a rebellion against Taleban after the religious militia's fighters launched an operation earlier this month to seize weapons from the local population.

Taleban official Maulavi Sadar Azam, who is deputy governor of eastern Jalalabad City, claimed the revolt in Kunar province, bordering Pakistan, had been "crushed" and the Islamic militia was now chasing the fleeing tribesmen in the mountains, the news agency said.

He gave no details and independent confirmation of the Taleban claim was not immediately available.

The tribesmen led by Malik Zarin had captured Barikot and Asmar towns, some 210 kilometres east of Kabul, from the Taleban last Monday after three days of fighting which reportedly left around 40 dead on both sides.

According to AIP, an important Taleban official, identified as Kaleemullah who was in charge of the education department in nearby Ningarhar province, was also killed in the tribal revolt.

Mr. Azam claimed that only two Taleban fighters were injured in the operation late Saturday to flush the rebels from Asmar.

The tribal revolt was the second in Kunar since the Taleban seized Afghan capital Kabul in late September, ousting President Burhanuddin Rabbani and sending his forces under former Defence Minister Ahmad

Shah Masood fleeing to northern Afghanistan.

Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Masood have joined with Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum and several other factions in an anti-Taleban alliance fighting to regain control.

A similar insurgency in Pech Darra, some 160 kilometres east of Kabul, in Kunar province late last year was put down by the Taleban after fierce fighting in which 40 combatants were reported killed and some 200 others wounded.

Observers said the tribal revolt could have involved former Jalalabad Governor Haji Abdul Qader who ruled the three eastern Afghan provinces of Kunar, Laghman and Ningarhar before the Taleban took control of Kabul.

The Taleban have alleged that opposition groups fighting against their forces in Kunar were using Pakistan as a base for their operations.

"It is a matter of concern for Afghanistan that anti-Afghan activities are taking place from inside Pakistani territory," Taleban Information and Culture Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi told reporters in Kabul Saturday.

However Mr. Muttaqi fell short of accusing Pakistan of directly aiding the anti-Taleban group but requested that authorities in Islamabad curtail any rebel activity.

"We want Pakistan not to allow anti-Afghan activities which are underway from their territory," he added.

In Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman denied the reports saying the Taleban had not made any official complaints, adding that no anti-Taleban forces were operating from Pakistan.

The spokesman added that Islamabad had no favourites among the warring Afghan factions and supported efforts by the United Nations to bring peace to the country.

Western observers in Kabul have said they believed Taleban's dramatic rise to power was made possible by covert support from the

Pakistani military and intelligence circles.

The Taleban, now battling opposition forces in northern Afghanistan, control most of the southern two-thirds of the country.

Meanwhile, four employees of the French-based charity Action Contre La Faim (ACF) — Action Against Hunger) have been arrested in Kabul, witnesses said Saturday.

The four men, two French expatriates and two local staff members, were being held by the Taleban militia.

A spokeswoman at ACF Paris headquarters confirmed the detention of expatriates Frederic Michel and Daniel Llorente, in charge of the charity's logistics in Kabul.

She said they were taken by Taleban from the United Nations compound in Kabul Friday night but declined to give more details.

It was not immediately clear why the four had been arrested or if they were charged with any crime.

The arrests followed a lunch organised by expatriate female staff of Action Contre La Faim for local female employees.

Witnesses said as many as 15 armed Taleban fighters entered the ACF residence at about 1:00 p.m. (0830 GMT) Friday, arresting a cook and a security guard, searching the house and removing cameras, photographs, magazines and films.

The two expatriates were arrested early Saturday at the United Nations International Community Association building in central Kabul — where they were staying — after protracted discussions between Taleban authorities and U.N. officials.

Taleban authorities have said the portrayal of images of living human beings in photographs and paintings runs counter to Islamic Law.

The ACF runs a number of projects in Kabul, including nutritional surveys and an emergency children feeding programme. It has suspended the projects until the situation has been clarified.

## More protests held in Albania's south

VLORE (R) — Anti-government protests in Albania's south showed no sign of abating Sunday as about 5,000 marchers staged their 18th daily protest march along the palm-lined main boulevard of this Adriatic port town.

The Balkan country's relatively more prosperous south has been hardest hit by the collapse of five dubious Pyramid investment schemes last month which wiped out the life savings of hundreds of thousands of Albanians.

Destitute investors blame the right-wing government of President Sali Berisha and Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi for not clamping down on the schemes when they boomed and keeping hapless investors in the dark about their dangers.

"We are demonstrating both because we want our money back and we want the government to resign," protester Engjell Dine said. "We're determined to keep on going until the bitter end."

The demonstrators rallied in front of Vlore University to express their support for a group of 55 students who went on an anti-government hunger strike Thursday.

"The main purpose of our hunger strike is to force the government to resign as soon as possible and for a technical government to be formed to deal with the problems which are hurting our city," student leader Leonard Kagallli said.

Mr. Berisha last week embarked on an election campaign-style tour across Albania to tell his desperate people that only the ruling Democratic Party could resolve the crisis.

But his office Sunday said Mr. Berisha had no immediate plans to travel to the country's south, which has spearheaded opposition against his government since five fraudulent funds collapsed in January, sparking weeks of popular protest.

Sources close to the presidency had indicated Saturday that Mr. Berisha was due to travel to the town of Fier, some 110 kilometres south of Tirana, Sunday.

Addressing hand-picked supporters in several cities across central and northern Albania over the past week, Mr. Berisha has promised to step up economic growth and exempt some of the worst-hit investors from paying taxes for two years.

## Suharto ends Burma visit

RANGOON (R) — Indonesian President Suharto ended a three-day visit to Burma Sunday that focused on cementing stronger relations between the two nations without dwelling on political or human rights issues, officials said.

Hundreds of well-wishers wearing bright, colour-coordinated sarongs lined the road leading to the airport to wave Indonesian flags at Mr. Suharto as they bade him farewell Sunday morning.

Mr. Suharto was accompanied at the airport by Burmese Prime Minister and head of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), Senior General Than Shwe.

Mr. Suharto's visit to Burma — the last stop on a week-long, three-nation tour that included Cambodia and Laos — comes

amid questions over the acceptance of Burma as a full member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The seven member nations of ASEAN have been pressured by several of their Western trading partners not to accept Burma as a full member until the SLORC improves its human rights record and agrees to talk with the democracy movement.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Burma, Cambodia and Laos are due to join the group soon although a date has not been set.

Burmese democracy leader, Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, has also urged ASEAN to rethink its plan to allow Burma to become a full member.



Albright's... over food

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**Azerbaijani attacks Russian arms sale to Armenia**

BAKU (R) — Azerbaijan strongly protested against alleged Russian supplies to Armenia and called for investigation by the United Nations for Security Council cooperation in its efforts.

Armenian Foreign Minister Yeghiazar Arsenyan said that the supply of arms to Armenia from Russia was a violation of the 1994 ceasefire agreement. He said that the supply of arms to Armenia from Russia was a violation of the 1994 ceasefire agreement.

**Central Bangkok rescued inferno**

Central Bangkok (R) — A major fire broke out in a shopping centre in central Bangkok on Sunday, forcing thousands of people to flee. The fire started in a shop on the ground floor and spread rapidly to the upper floors. Firefighters arrived within minutes and worked for several hours to contain the blaze. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.



Civilians observe a crater Sunday, made by a 200 kilo bomb which fell on the crowded Kadutu market during a raid by the Zairean Air Force last week. The bombing raid which hit all civilian areas left at least nine dead and over 40 wounded. The fighting in eastern Zaire continues despite recent attempts by the international community to initiate peace talks (Reuters photo)

### Albright cold-shouldered by Japan over food aid for North Korea

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan gave a cool response Sunday to appeals from U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to act on an urgent request for food aid for North Korea, officials said.

She also used her first encounter with Japanese leaders since taking office last month to address trade frictions, warning of reprisals for Tokyo's alleged discrimination against U.S. firms in the maritime-transport market.

Ms. Albright asked Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda to respond in a "forward-looking" way to the recent World Food Programme (WFP) appeal but he reacted cautiously, Japanese officials said.

She made the request shortly after her arrival from Seoul on the second leg of her first Asian tour since becoming state secretary. She has also visited six European nations on the way.

Mr. Ikeda pointed to allegations that Japanese nationals had been kidnapped to the North in the past, a question which has been denied by Pyongyang but stalled rapprochement talks with Tokyo for more than four years.

U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns, at a separate briefing, said Mrs. Albright and Mr. Ikeda had discussed the Korean situation "at great length" and there was a "broad-scale agreement in most of this issue."

But he refused to comment on the Japanese stand on the aid issue.

Mrs. Albright is scheduled to have a breakfast meeting Monday with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto before flying to Beijing, the final stop of her tour, where preparations were under way for the funeral of paramilitary leader Deng Xiaoping.

Over the food aid, Ms. Albright reminded Mr. Ikeda that Pyongyang was prepared to make exploratory contact on four-way Korean peace talks which also involve China.

The WFP has appealed for \$41.6 million in food aid to the Stalinist state. The United States has committed \$10 million and South Korea \$6 million.

Japan insists that it is in a different position from the United States and South Korea.

"You should not make simplistic comparisons," Mr. Hashimoto told reporters Wednesday. "Was there any abduction incident between the U.S. government and North Korea? ... Does America have a case like Li Un-Hye?"

Ms. Li Un-Hye is a Japanese woman allegedly abducted by North Korean agents to train spies.

Tokyo broke off rapprochement talks with Pyongyang in late 1992 when North Korean negotiators walked out after Japan demanded information on Ms. Li Un-Hye.

The 1977 disappearance of a 13-year-old Japanese girl was recently back in the limelight with allegations that she was kidnapped by a North Korean agent.

On economic issues, Mrs. Albright asked for improvements in market access to areas ranging from automobiles and parts to civil aviation and Japanese maritime ports, the officials said.

She demanded a quick response over Japan's alleged refusal of licenses to let non-Japanese firms perform stevedore services, the officials said.

Ms. Albright told Mr. Ikeda that the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), an independent organisation, might impose penalties for each Japanese ship calling at an American port.

Later in a meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Shinji Sato, Ms. Albright warned of trade friction flaring up again in the auto sector if Japan failed to deliver on a pledge to help U.S. firms open dealerships.

On the question of a landowners' revolt against renewing leases on land used by U.S. forces in Okinawa, Ms. Albright sought an "amicable solution" while Mr. Ikeda promised Tokyo would do everything possible, the officials said.

Ms. Albright also met with the state minister for defence, Fumio Kyuma, and reaffirmed a policy of maintaining the present U.S. troop levels in Japan although land used for U.S. bases in Okinawa was to be cut by 20 per cent.

Mr. Burns said Ms. Albright wanted economic issues to be a "regular part" of her discussions with Japanese leaders. He noted that her meeting with Mr. Sato was the first time a secretary of state had met a Japanese trade minister in 14 years.

### N. Korean funeral list hints at power struggle

SEOUL (R) — North Korea may be in the throes of a power struggle, analysts and media reports said Sunday after Pyongyang signalled a major leadership shake-up.

In an apparent bid to show that top leader Kim Jong-Il was still in charge, Pyongyang radio reported his first public appearance since a high-level defection 11 days ago.

Cracks have been appearing in the hierarchy of the secretive Communist nation — already destabilised by food shortages — since the defection of Hwang Jang-Yop, the country's top ideologue, to South Korea's Beijing embassy on Feb. 12.

Premier Kang Song-San, 66, was replaced last Friday. And on Saturday, North Korean media reported the death a day earlier of Defence Minister Choe Kwang, 78.

The line-up of Choe's funeral committee — a fairly reliable gauge of power — indicated that the sudden departure of three senior figures was just the latest in a series of exits among the ruling elite.

Large-scale changes since a similar list was issued two years ago has added weight to speculation of a Pyongyang power struggle as Mr. Kim prepares at last to assume the formal titles of state president and general secretary of the ruling Workers' Party vacant since his father, Kim Il-Sung, died in 1994.

There was no official explanation for the departure of Mr. Kang, ranked sixth in the power structure, although he was known to be ailing. Choe, who died of a heart attack, was number seven in the pecking order.

The latest list of 85 names announced by the official North Korean media shows that up to one third of the top 30 positions have changed hands.

"There has been a power shift," South Korea's top newspaper, the Chosun Ilbo, said Sunday.

"They've already been dismissed or there's a serious power struggle inside North Korea," the Dong A Ilbo daily said.

Deputy Premiers Choe Yong-Rim and Kim Hwan and former Premier Yon Hyong-Muk were off the list, as was Workers' Party strategy chief O Kuk-Ryol and central military commission member Ri Ha-Il.

Military men have made the most gains.

"There has been quite a sharp rise in power by military officials," said a report in the Naewoo Press, which monitors the North Korean media.

Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun daily said Workers' Party strategist O enjoyed the support of young military officers.

### The Birdcage wins top honours at Screen Actors Guild Awards

LOS ANGELES (R) — Zany comedy film The Birdcage won one of the top honours at the Screen Actors Guild Awards Saturday in a surprise victory over other movies that are considered likely favourites to win an Oscar.

While the Screen Actors Guild does not hand out a "best picture" award, it honoured The Birdcage for best ensemble performance in a motion picture, over such films as The English Patient and Shine, both Academy Award nominees.

The Birdcage, which was released early last year was not nominated for an Academy Award for best picture.

"For the first time in my life, I was totally speechless," one of the film's stars, Nathan Lane, said after the ceremony. "You could have knocked all of us over with a feather. We were in a state of shock."

Screen Actors Guild Awards, which are based on the votes of the 78,000 members of the Actors' Union, are seen as an endorsement of actors by their peers, and often as a precursor of likely winners at the Academy Awards, which will be presented next month.

Small, independent films were also among the big winners, with Frances McDormand honoured as best actress in a motion picture for her role as a police detective in the offbeat murder film Fargo and Geoffrey Rush winning the best actor award for Shine, the story of brilliant young pianist destroyed by mental illness.

Both McDormand and Rush are up for Academy Awards.

### Japan's very respectable prince speaks out ... a bit

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito has given a rare press conference in which he politely acknowledged the public's right to speculate on when he will produce an heir but gently chided the media not to get too nosy.

The very respectful news conference by this very respectable royal, held nine days ago but timed for release on the prince's 37th birthday Sunday, was a far cry from Britain's scandal-tarred royals who both fascinate and repel many Japanese.

Prince Naruhito's carefully worded responses to questions during the 17-minute

conference gave no clues on whether a baby might be on the horizon for him and his wife, Crown Princess Masako.

"I fully recognise the importance of this matter and the degree to which the people are interested in this question," the prince said. "I would like to refrain from making any further comment."

Public fascination with the issue lies in the fact that so far the Japanese imperial succession is not assured beyond Prince Naruhito's generation.

Under the Japanese system, only male descendants of the male line of the imperial family can become emperor.

## Kalima falls to Zaire rebels as new bombing raids reported

KISANGANI, Zaire (AFP) — The town of Kalima and its refugee camp in eastern Zaire have fallen to rebels, informed sources said here Sunday, amid reports that dozens had been killed in new air raids against rebel positions.

Humanitarian officials had said Saturday that 25,000 Rwandan refugees had fled the Kalima camp in panic amid reports of renewed fighting in the area, and said unidentified troops had been spotted at the camp's runway.

Religious sources here confirmed that Kalima had fallen early Sunday. They said rebels had quietly moved in and taken the camp Saturday with no fighting.

As reports circulated of the town's fall, sources here said Sunday that dozens of people had been killed in the past few days in air raids by Zairean government forces on rebel positions on the road between Kisangani and Bafwasende, further to the north.

The bombing and machine-gun raids sparked panic and left victims among both the rebels and civilians, the sources said. Civilians were fleeing towards Kisangani, they said.

Government forces said the bombardments would continue until the area was "cleansed."

Kinshasa had been sharply criticised for earlier bombing raids, which began last week and which were reported to have caused numerous civilian casualties.

The Kalima camp was only opened last Monday, initially to house 25,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees who evacuated their camp at Shabunda, 70 kilometres to the east, at the start of the month when Zairean rebels arrived in the area.

Aid workers said the flight of the refugees had taken place within the space of around an hour.

"It was incredible. There was nothing left there, as if the camp had never existed," a member of one non-governmental organisation said.

Fighting broke out in eastern Zaire in October, when mainly Tutsi rebels launched a campaign that has since escalated into an offensive to overthrow the president.

The rebels claim they now control some 20 per cent of Zaire. Certainly they hold a long swathe of eastern Zaire around 1,000 kilometres along its eastern border.

At the beginning of February, relief organisations estimated that 400,000 Rwandan Hutus remained in eastern Zaire and the fighting has prompted many to flee camps in the area.

Recent attempts to bring the two sides together for talks in Cape Town appear to have bogged down.

South African and U.S. negotiators have been talking separately to both warring sides in the Zairean conflict in a bid to kick-start negotiations.

Rebel leader Laurent-Désiré Kabila had announced Friday that his fighters would scale back their fighting during the Cape Town talks. But late Friday, the Zairean government rejected all negotiations with the rebels, whom it claims are supported by Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.

Meanwhile, Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko has shaken up the army high command, naming a new commander of land forces, which are battling rebels in the country's east, state radio reported Saturday.

General Mosala Modjondongo, commander of the Lower Zaire region, replaced General Mubumba Ambongo, it said, quoting a presidential decree signed by Mr. Mobutu on Feb. 17, before his departure for his villa in France Friday.

The shake-up follows advances by rebels from the east on several fronts, blunting an army counter-offensive launched from Zaire's third city of Kisangani on Jan. 20.

Defence officials contacted by Reuters Saturday were unable to elaborate on the reasons for the latest change in the high command, which has seen its forces struggling against the rebels.

Mr. Mobutu, who had prostate surgery last August in Europe, returned to Zaire after four months absence and shuffled the army high command in December.

He appointed General Mahle Licko Bokungo as armed forces chief of staff. Gen. Mahle is one of the few senior generals in Zaire who has earned his reputation on the battlefield and not through close family or ethnic ties to Mr. Mobutu.

A senior Defence Ministry official said earlier Saturday that Zaire's armed forces had been using helicopter gunships to attack rebels advancing from the north and east on Kisangani.

"Since Wednesday our Mi-24 combat helicopter have been conducting raids between Bafwasende and Banahia," the official told Reuters, adding that rebels had been as close as 130 kilometres to the city. The raids continued Friday.

### Algerian forces reportedly kill 88 rebels

PARIS (Agencies) — Algerian security forces have killed 88 guerrillas over the past week in operations carried out in four rebel strongholds, a leading Algerian newspaper said Sunday.

At least 18 other rebels were killed in infighting between guerrilla factions, said Al Watan daily, quoting what it called a reliable source.

Security forces, in a simultaneous operations in Medea and the mountainous Chrea regions, killed 60 guerrillas, it said.

More than 150 villagers had been slaughtered in the past four months in Chrea and Medea in suspected Muslim militant raids, including 33 people backed to death 10 days ago in Ker-

rich hamlet in Chrea area, 50 kilometres south of Algiers.

Twenty-three guerrillas were killed Thursday and Friday in Magtaa Kheira village, 60 kilometres southwest of Algiers, said Al Watan widely seen as well-informed in security affairs.

Security forces stormed a rebel hideout in Algiers last week killing five militants holding a meeting to plot unspecified attacks in the Algerian capital, the paper added.

The paper made no mention of casualties in the ranks of the security forces.

The bodies of five guerrillas killed in infighting were found Thursday on a roadside in Larba, 22 kilometres south of Algiers, Al Watan said.

The five men were members of a group which broke away from the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's ruthless guerrilla faction, it said.

Thirteen more guerrillas had died in the past week in a turf war between rival guerrilla factions in the western region of Sidi Bel Abbas, Al Watan added.

President Liamine Zerate was quoted earlier this month as saying that the latest wave of killing in Algeria was the result of settling scores between rival rebels.

About 60,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead.

The government plans to hold multi-party parliamentary elections on May 29 or June 5.

Algerian security forces have slain five members of a splinter group of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the Al Watan daily newspaper reported Sunday.

Among them was the leader of the group known as Kaibat Al-Ansar, a dissident faction of the GIA — the most extreme of the armed Islamic groups fighting the country's military-backed regime — the paper said.

The five were killed while holding a meeting in an apartment in central Algiers, the newspaper reported.

### Yeltsin says fully recovered, sees NATO compromise

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin, looking thin but lively on his first public appearance for nearly two months, said Sunday he expected to strike a deal on NATO expansion plans at next month's summit with Bill Clinton.

Mr. Yeltsin, who met U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Friday, said after a wearying ceremony for Russia's war dead that Moscow would stall the inclusion of its former East European allies into the Western alliance as long as possible.

He told reporters he hoped to reach a compromise when he met the U.S. President in Helsinki on March 20 and 21.

"We are firm in our position. We are opposed to NATO enlargement. Our task now is to stall it as long as possible and not allow the renewal of confrontation," Mr. Yeltsin said after the short ceremony marking Russia's Defenders of the Fatherland Day.

"We have agreed to look for a compromise and I think we will find this compromise at the summit we are holding with President Clinton on March 20-21," he said at the memorial to the unknown soldier outside the Kremlin wall.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov will hold talks in Brussels Sunday with NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana. It is the latest in an intensive round of diplomatic negotiations surrounding the alliance's expansion plans, which Moscow sees as a threat to security and a domestic political embarrassment.

Mr. Yeltsin spent nearly 20 minutes on the ceremony and chatting with journalists in bright sunshine.

Wearing a heavy dark blue coat, he ignored the freezing temperature and removed his fur hat during the ceremony.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and other government leaders also attended.

It was the first time Mr. Yeltsin has been seen in public since he went down with pneumonia in early January. The illness which thwarted his attempt to make an early recovery from the heart bypass operation he underwent last November. He has spent little time in the Kremlin since being reelected last July.

Mr. Yeltsin has spoken on television and been photographed briefly during meetings with visiting officials but has not met the media or public face-to-face since new year.

Walking a little stiffly but with confidence and speaking

clearly, he told reporters he had lost 26 kilogramme during his illnesses of the past few months.

"I have fully recovered now. I just have to gain some strength," he said. "My brain is working fine."

Asked about attempts by the opposition-dominated parliament to remove him on health grounds, Mr. Yeltsin showed some of his old fire, growling: "This is a purely political. Communist campaign. But they should know I am a fighter and I remain a fighter. They shouldn't attack me too hard because I can hit back."

Mr. Yeltsin also touched on the question of Russian military reform Sunday, saying there were "difficulties," but adding that "progress is already visible."

He said that "soldiers should feel optimistic."

The Russian army is suffering from an acute shortage of funds and deepening problems of morale and Defence Minister Igor Rodionov has issued a series of strongly worded warnings.

Gen. Rodionov Sunday reiterated his concern over the state of Russia's armed forces as the Kremlin issued reassuring statements on the country's defence systems.

In a speech in honour of Russia's Armed Forces Day, Gen. Rodionov warned that the country's strategic systems needed close monitoring, the Interfax News Agency said.

"What exists must be preserved before we worry about reform," he said.

"We have enough planes and missiles, but there is a risk that our control systems will no longer be reliable," Gen. Rodionov said, adding: "Russia could lose control of its nuclear arms."

"If concrete measures are not taken before 2000 ... Russia's defence system will be destroyed," Gen. Rodionov said.

Last week ITAR-TASS reported that Mr. Yeltsin had asked Prime Minister Chernomyrdin to verify personally the reliability of Russia's strategic missile systems.

Mr. Yeltsin's move came after Gen. Rodionov submitted a report earlier this month in which he said the country's nuclear forces were in danger of getting out of control.

Mr. Chernomyrdin made an inspection of the Ballistic Missile Forces Command near Moscow and said it was "reliable."

### Peru ends dangerous search for mudslide victims

LIMA (R) — The bodies of up to 300 peasants will remain entombed under a thick crust of mud in southern Peru after authorities decided Saturday the risks to rescuers from mudslides or epidemics was too great to continue digging.

"It is better to save our own lives than recover dead people," Luis Barra, mayor of the village of Abancay and local civil defence chief, told Reuters by telephone.

Rescuers Saturday dug

another four bodies out of the mud and rocks which engulfed the Andean Mountain villages of Cocha and Pumarana before dawn Tuesday. But driving rain triggered a fresh mudslide and they abandoned their work.

"We worked from eight in the morning (1300 GMT) to two (1900 GMT) in the afternoon, when more mud came sliding down, which scared us. So we decided to call off the search," Mr. Barra said.

Nearly 50 bodies have been recovered by civil defence workers who have laboured under the constant threat of the mudslides that are common in Peru's rainy season.

Mr. Barra said bodies closest to the surface have now been found, but the rest were more than two metres below. The buried bodies were beginning to rot, and posed less of a threat of causing epidemics if they were left under mud.

Their advanced state of putrefaction made the bodies found Saturday — the legless corpse of a woman, a girl and two children — impossible to identify.

With the rain still pouring down, exposed nearby villages have been evacuated by troops who went from hut to hut to persuade reluctant residents to leave behind their chickens, sheep and Guinea pigs.

About 250 families have lost their homes, and another 230 have been evacuated from exposed sites.



## Jordan Times

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## Depth to peace message

TO EXPRESS disappointment that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not use the opportunity of his visit here yesterday to announce the withdrawal of plans to build new settlements in East Jerusalem is equivalent to saying that we expected him to do so but he did not. The fact is that much as he would have done well to announce freezing of these plans, as a measure of good faith in the peace process and in recognition of Jordan's central role in it, Netanyahu was simply nowhere near taking this step. A quick look at his political situation and that of his government would readily explain why he would not. The right-wing factions, which are the backbone of his cabinet, would have used such an announcement to topple him from power.

No Arab, Muslim or peace-loving person in this world can justify the need for Netanyahu or any Israeli leader to establish and expand Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories, especially East Jerusalem. Certainly none of them will accept any pretext, political or otherwise, for why he would not refrain from even thinking about building settlements. But, having said that, we should not excuse ourselves from studying and analysing the internal Israeli political scene in order to see just what is in the realm of the possible, if only to predict what might happen.

From what we could see already, it would be extremely difficult for the Netanyahu government to reach a comprehensive, lasting and just peace with all of the Arabs — at least not in its present set-up.

This conclusion, of course, goes against the grain of what the Israeli prime minister was trying to convince us of. His message was that "this is the only government" that could make real peace with the Arabs.

What is to be done then? How should we deal with the Israelis and on what basis?

The Arab World will not, for strategic reasons and considerations, abandon the search for peace even with an Israeli government that will not, cannot deliver on reaching an equitable settlement. The only avenue open, short of resorting to wars and violence, would be to keep up the pressure in the direction of peace until such time when there is no alternative for the Israelis but to respond in kind. After all, this will be in their best and truest interests.

His Majesty the King did not say in so many words yesterday that Netanyahu risked more than the fall of his government by not abandoning plans to construct new settlements in Jerusalem or elsewhere in the Palestinian territories. But the King was clear in his message that the need for peace overrode every other consideration by any government.

The King left it up to the Israeli prime minister to discover the depth of the meaning of his message.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i criticised the present civil service system in Jordan saying that it is more oriented towards ensuring the well-being of the civil servants and government employees than offering civil service to the public. Fahed Faneek said the successive governments are to blame for this situation because they followed what he called 'political hypocrisy' to win popularity for themselves at the expense of public interest. Indeed, it is easier to get a divorce in Jordan than sacking a public official or civil servant, especially those with clout, added the writer. He said the present system does not demand quality service from the government employees and does not offer incentives to encourage them to offer such service, but it allows an employee to make more gains and get higher salary the longer he or she stays in his or her job albeit with poor performance. Furthermore, the pension system which used to be applied after the employee had served 30 years offering him 75 per cent of the salary during retirement, has been amended on several occasions, allowing the employee to retire after a shorter period of service and to receive higher salary, continued the writer. He said in view of this situation there is no wonder that Jordanian citizens are less productive and less creative than their colleagues in foreign and advanced nations, and there is no wonder that the country's public service remains backward.

A WRITER for Al Dustour has urged Parliament and the government to place the question of the rights of the Jordanian people of Palestinian origin in occupied Palestine on the list of priorities for discussion, stressing that the legitimate owners of lands and homes in Palestine can never give up their rights. It is the responsibility of the government to demand the restoration of Jordanian people's rights, their real estates, and their homes for which they hold real deeds and whose property is registered with the concerned authorities, demanded Hamadeh Farnaneh. By demanding our rights we are following the example of Jews who emigrated to Palestine from Europe and America and who were keen on regaining their rights in their original countries or receiving compensation for them, continued the writer. The Jordan-Israel peace treaty came to end the decades of conflict in the region and if Israel wishes to see security, stability and real peace prevailing in the coming century, it should abandon its policy of hegemony over the region and should give up the land which it has occupied for decades, said the writer. We are definitely not inclined to carry out terrorist attacks as a way of regaining our property and lands in Israel but said the writer, we are determined to pursue this end through other means and through teaching our children about these rights and drilling into their minds that they have a duty to do all they can to regain them.

## Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

## Will 1997 be a better year?

A FEW days ago, a friend of mine asked me the typical, yet never easy, question, "So do you think next year will be a better year for the economy?" The answer was rather lengthy, so I decided to write it up as an article.

Unemployment: If you have been one of the unlucky unemployed people of 1996 (15 per cent of the labour force) and are still looking for a job then it is likely that you will continue to look for a job in 1997. The Gulf countries, in spite of increased oil prices, suffer from unemployment among their indigenous populations. In many of these countries, the indigenization of the labour force is considered a developmental goal. Bahrain and Oman have made significant progress in this regard, even though the process has so far been limited to the private sector. This policy may cause the demand for Jordanian labour to decrease in these markets.

The Iraqi market will not be ready this year to attract enough business investment and it remains an unpredictable market. Furthermore, due to the high unemployment rates, all jobs created there will be immediately satisfied by the domestic labour supply. Hence, one would be wise to steer his/her market expectations away from Iraq-dependent scenarios.

Kuwait will most likely remain steadfast on its policy of not accepting Jordanian workers. Their demand for Jordanian labour will not return this year to the way it was before the Gulf war, however, the reason may be more due to financial difficulties and commitment to indigenous labour than due to Jordan's still misunderstood role in the Gulf war. After all, many of the Gulf countries' economies have been in financial straits due to the Gulf war, capital flight, and ambitious development programmes. Furthermore, for the economy in Jordan to absorb all new entrants to the labour market, the economy must grow annually at no less than an average growth rate of 8 per cent, which task will be close to impossible given the government's resolve to decrease the budget deficit further in 1997.

The inflation rate: According to preliminary estimates the inflation rate last year was close to 6 per cent due to

the reduction of government subsidies on water and electricity and the shift from direct to cash subsidies in several commodities such as wheat. Had it not been for the tight monetary policy last year the inflation rate would have been higher. In 1997, inflation may rise further as the government continues to pursue its policy of cash transfers, privatisation, and price liberalisation. Furthermore, the worldwide increase in oil prices (17.5 per cent in 1995) may trigger higher prices in Jordan and cause greater inflation, especially as Jordanian expatriates in the Gulf increase their remittances home (supply push and demand pull effects). Additionally, while the European countries have enjoyed low inflation rates last year, several of the EU governments may relax their monetary policies and cause the inflation rate to rise in order to alleviate some of their unemployment problems. (The European Union has requested from its member countries to reduce their budget deficits as a percentage of the GDP to 3 per cent. Whether countries such as France and Italy whose unemployment rates are comparable to those of Jordan will listen to the EU or not, remains to be seen).

Jordan stands to gain from new developments in the peace process in the region. Positive developments in the negotiations between the Palestinian National Authority and the Israeli government will increase the inward flow of foreign investment, encourage domestic investment, increase tourism revenues, and revitalise the transport sector in Jordan. Further, as Iraq becomes more involved in the international oil market with the implementation of the oil-for-food agreement with the United Nations Jordan will see an increase in its exports to Iraq, especially in the area of reexports.

Apparently, the picture is not clear whether 1997 will be a better year or not. However, economists are not always competent, especially when it comes to predicting. The famous economist John Maynard Keynes once said: "If economists can manage to get themselves thought of as humble, competent people, on a level with dentists, that would be splendid." Need one say more!

By Gwynne Dyer

## After Deng

LESSER MEN like widely disliked Premier Li Peng were obliged to take the public blame for ordering the massacre of pro-democracy protesters on Tiananmen Square in 1989, but it was Deng Xiaoping who actually gave the order. Now that he is dead, how long will it be before it all starts happening again?

Forever, say most observers, believing that the Chinese people have been bought off, distracted, or drugged into submission by the avalanche of consumer goods that has transformed so many people's lives in China since 1989.

At 10 per cent growth per year, the Chinese economy has doubled in size since 1989, and per capita income is up by at least 50 per cent. President Jiang Zemin, Deng's chosen successor, has had seven clear years to consolidate his own power, with the old man still in the background to run interference for him.

For the first time in 400 years, we are assured, there will not be a succession struggle after the old ruler dies. The Chinese Communists have got away with it, combining a vigorous capitalist economy with rigorous party control of politics. The "cross-century cadres" will still be in power a decade from now.

Well, maybe. To believe this, you only have to believe that Chinese people are different from everybody else and have no desire to exercise more control over their own lives, that a Communist Party which has spent the past 40 years waging vicious internal feuds

has now utterly changed its character; and that there will be no hitch or hiccup in the steady growth of employment and income in China over the next ten years.

The White Queen told Alice that she could believe five impossible things before breakfast. That is only three, but still....

Nobody is suggesting that a new leadership struggle is going to break out next month. As Hong Kong's best China-watcher, Willy Lam of the "South China Morning Post," told me last year: "There is a near consensus amongst diplomats and China-watchers in Beijing that the first one to two years after Deng's death would in fact be quite stable. The leadership which Deng has anointed will likely be able to hold the fort for the near term, that means for up to 18 to 24 months."

Nobody seriously expects a simple repetition of the events on Tiananmen Square, either. Eight years on, people are much more cynical. Even students are more cautious, because they have much more to lose. But it is a plain fact that hardly anybody under the age of 40 believes in Communism, or even thinks that their leaders really believe in it. Yet if you don't accept Communist ideology, then by what right do these people hold power?

Not just power, either, but a near-monopoly of wealth. The corruption has grown so great that one Beijing insider estimated recently that at least a dozen senior Communist families are

now in the billionaire class. These great and increasingly hereditary concentrations of wealth and power will be tolerated as long as everybody else is getting more prosperous too, but not if the economy stalls. Even temporarily.

The prospect of losing both wealth and power concentrate the mind wonderfully. People who rise to positions of wealth and power, especially in a Communist system, tend to make long-term strategic calculations about how to achieve and preserve those positions. So it would be astounding if many senior Communists were not thinking in terms of moving to a more flexible, more sustainable political system.

Other countries in East Asia have already blazed the path. In Japan, formal democratisation after 1945 left the old "iron triangle" of politicians, industrialists and bureaucrats virtually untouched for four decades. There were free speech, a free press and free elections, but the same gang always won. The same strategy is now being successfully implemented in Taiwan and (so far, at least) in South Korea.

This is the line along which the Chinese Communist Party will split has already secretly split. In fact, as the dispute between disgraced former Premier Zhao Ziyang and hard-liners like Deng at the time of Tiananmen Square amply demonstrated.

Some senior cadres believe that stonewalling on

democratisation is the only way to preserve the privileges of the Communist elite. Others (Qiao Shi, the chairman of the National People's Congress, is the most readily identifiable) are convinced that political liberalisation is a necessary safety valve and the best long-term guarantee of their power.

If the Chinese Communist Party were to dump its most embarrassing and blood-stained autocrats and hold free election today — even allowing other political parties to compete — its money, its control of patronage, and its ability to corral the massive rural vote would give it an overwhelming victory. It was on just such a basis that Japan's Liberal Democratic Party kept a monopoly of power through 38 years of free elections.

When the intra-party struggle really gets underway, 18 or 24 months from now, these rival strategies for survival will define the way that the factions line up. The odds are in favour of the reformers' winning, simply because they are on average younger, better educated, and richer.

If they win (without triggering an open civil war within the regime), then five years from now China could be a country that superficially meets most of the norms of an open, democratic society. The reality would be rather different, but free speech, a free press and the rule of law are not gains to be sneered at.

If they lose, then sooner or later it is back to Tiananmen Square. Except that next time, maybe it won't be just the government side that uses violence.

## Human Rights File

## What 'Intimaa' is all about

By Waleed M. Sadi

THE ARABIC word "Intimaa" is gaining increasing currency in the ongoing national debate about who is and who is not a genuine Jordanian, not to mention a loyal Jordanian. I found myself time and again reflecting on the phenomenon or "intimaa" and in this process tried to draw guidance from the world around us for a precise construction of the term. Literally speaking, "intimaa" to a country means faithful association and identification with that country. It could also mean believing in the country and having a certain "love" and appreciation for it. The concept also implies readiness to defend it and its national symbols. For us in Jordan, what tops the list of criteria is the devotion and loyalty to the Hashemite dynasty and the recognition of the role of the Great Arab Revolt in shaping the Arabic path of the country.

All these national symptoms and symbols would remain abstract unless translated into deeds. Planting a tree, constructing a home and investing in an economic project are all manifestations of faith, confidence and association with the country. Even trying to be part of the political establishment could be evidence of self-identification with it. In other words, taking a positive part in the economic, political and cultural development of the country are all forms of political, economic and cultural expressions that would give "intimaa" a more tangible form. Yet the litmus paper for Jordanian identity is all these features plus something else, which is hard to define in black and white terms. This something else could be a matter of "feeling" or "sentiment" of belonging to the country.

The debate on this issue boils down, however, to whether Jordanians of Palestinian origin are grade A Jordanians in every sense of the word. Many of these "Jordanians" have started to hear for sometime now and feel or believe that they are being systematically and methodically treated as second class citizens in the wake of recent developments in the area despite repeated pronouncements to the contrary.

This increasing sense of "isolation" or marginalisation has been given expression, in the opinion of some at least, by word and deed. The cumulative effect of this creeping erosion of the political clout of the affected Jordanians has taken a heavy toll on the political and economic stability of the country. It is this phenomenon and the currents that led and are leading to it that prompt a fresh appraisal of what a Jordanian identity is all about and what constitutes "intimaa" to this country as presently constituted.

The loss of the West Bank to the Israelis in 1967 may have been the start of a process of reappraisal of the Jordanian identity. The waves of displaced "Jordanians" from the West Bank which poured into the Eastern Bank gave rise to genuine fears that there was a conspiracy aiming to make Jordan a homeland for the Palestinians and that the Palestinian question is being solved at the expense of the original Jordanians. The sheer size of the new emigrants must have sent shockwaves across the minds of many Jordanians who feared that a further disequilibrium in the ratio between the original and new citizens would jeopardise the political influence of the original people of the country, especially in the context of parliamentary democracy.

There is no doubt that the 1970 military and political conflict between the state and the Palestinian com-

mando groups that operated recklessly and illegally in the Kingdom at that time raised serious doubts in the minds of many indigenous Jordanians about the "intimaa" of many compatriots of Palestinian origin. The Palestinian fideyeen movement operating in the country during that time was rightly perceived as an attempt by the Palestinian side to take full control of Jordan.

The Jordanian-Palestinian equation became more disturbed with the rise of the political fortunes of the PLO in Arab and international eyes, especially in the wake of the Rabat Arab summit of 1974 which purported to give the Palestinians a greater role in shaping their future. More pragmatically speaking, this Arab and international recognition of the Palestinian identity was part and parcel of the international preparatory work to solve the Palestinian conflict at the hands of the Palestinians themselves.

Then came the 1988 political decision to break all legal and administrative ties with the West Bank which was the straw that broke the camel's back. The full legal import of that decision has yet to be measured. If the intention behind it was to affect the secession of the West Bank from the country, then it was and still is unconstitutional. There are no ifs or buts about this point. If, however, the intent was less than a secession, then what are we all talking about when we debate afresh the Jordanian identity? As valid and justified as the strains on the Jordanian identity, they remain essentially and effectively more political than legal. There is no legal way that citizenship rights can be taken away with a stroke of a pen once they are acquired legally. How to reconcile the political considerations with the legal dictates is something that Jordan has yet to resolve properly and orderly.

It must be borne in mind by all sides that first, second and third generation Jordanians have lived and continue to live in this country for all or most of their life, contributed and continue to contribute to its development and raise their children and grand children in it. They are more associated with Jordan than with their original homeland. For the most part, these people have not even set foot in "Palestine," and know no country other than Jordan. To continue treating them as second class citizens in terms of rights and privileges, or much worse to deny them full citizenship rights, would be a folly on the long run. To question their "intimaa" here and now would also seem irresponsible. Instead of doubting the loyalty of so many of the people and alienating them by word and deed, we should endeavour to cultivate within them a sense of belonging.

Speaking of or associating themselves with their roots in Palestine should not pose a problem in the eyes of the politically matured amongst us since on the long run, there is no practical way of separating Jordan from the West Bank. I think the sooner that we all come into grips with the new demographic reality in the country, the sooner we would reconcile ourselves with the obvious fact that Jordan and Jordanians are no longer what they used to be. There is no sense in looking backward as if we can turn the clock back to the late forties or early fifties. Jordan is now a different country. The sooner that we all accept this fact, the sooner would be the day when we go on with building up the Kingdom on terra firma.

## LETTERS

### Message of peace

To the Editor:

AS A group of American Jews visiting Israel, Palestine and Jordan, we wish to add our voices to those criticising the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a danger to the Arab-Israeli peace process. We are fully in support of The Copenhagen Declaration of January 30, 1997, and also of the open letter addressed to Mr. Netanyahu in your newspaper today. The building of more Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land can only lead to more bloodshed and tragedy for all the peoples of the region. You should be aware that there are many American Jews who believe that a just and lasting peace requires an end to all settlement building and the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from occupied Arab lands.

Our organisation in the United States, which represents the philosophy of Israel's Meretz Party, is committed to these goals, and works diligently to inform our fellow American citizens about the reality of the situation in the Middle East. Rest assured that we will continue these efforts when we return to America, so that all of us, Jews, Muslims, and Christians, Israelis and Arabs — Abna' Ibrahim, the Children of Abraham — can raise up a new generation which will never again know war and occupation.

Jacob Bender,  
Executive Director,  
American Friends of Meretz.

### For the record

To the Editor:

SOME CORRECTIONS are due regarding your article about Garuda (Jordan Times, Feb. 19, 1997).

The air transport agreement between the government of Indonesia and the government of Jordan was signed in Jakarta in November 1991. Seven months after the signing, in June 1992, Royal Jordanian began its flights to Jakarta twice a week.

The visit of the Indonesian President Suharto to Jordan was on November 11-14, 1996, not in July 1996.

The first Garuda flight landed in Amman on Feb. 1, 1997.

Firdausie Dwiandika,  
Indonesian Embassy.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.





# Seminar sees private sector generating higher activity for development

By Ghalia Alul  
special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A seminar on private sector participation in development projects in Jordan Sunday stressed that private sector involvement in the economy should generate greater activity to benefit public and commercial development.

The seminar, organised by the Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the British Embassy, emphasised the importance of private sector interaction with the government in the development of infrastructure projects, Yusuf Mansur, head of the technical unit at the Ministry of Planning said.

He added that the seminar also discussed policies for the implementation of build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT), and build, own, operate (BOO) arrangements.

"Most industrialised economies opt for this system in doing business," Dr. Mansur said.

However, he said the government should provide incentives as well as enact suitable legislation for the private sector to undertake such projects.

"A clear, central policy should be established as well as a review of the laws in order to create the appropriate legal environment for this approach to development. Levels of risk transfer must be considered carefully and appropriate risk taken by the private sector," according to a press release issued subsequent to the seminar.

In her inaugural speech to the seminar, Planning Minister Rima Khalaf said Jordan was pressing ahead with its structural adjustment and economic liberalisation programme which aims at achieving sustainable development within the framework of open and positive interaction with the global economy.

She added that the structural reform programme, which the Kingdom started in 1989, was successful in liberalising the trade system, reducing tariffs on imports, rationalising tariff schedules as well as removing all non-tariff barriers.

"Realising that sustainable development requires the ability to continuously create new jobs and to speedily affect the transfer of technology, the programme focuses on enhancing the economy's present and future capacity to attract foreign investments," the minister said.

She added that the Kingdom has also enacted new transparent and investment-friendly laws with the aim of creating an environment more conducive to business.

The minister said the Kingdom was also successful in its efforts to privatise public sector enterprises, especially those in the infrastructure, namely

water, transport, electricity and telecommunications.

"The country has made huge strides in the telecommunications and energy areas, not only by converting these public enterprises into companies but also by enacting new laws which enable the private sector delivery of services and allow for the enhancement of competition," Dr. Khalaf added.

As for transport and water, the minister said: "The government has initiated procedures to enter into management contracts with private sector operators."

She concluded by saying that the private sector should expand "its traditional domain into the provision of physical infrastructure services including, but not limited to, roads, railways, ports, water supply, electricity and basic telecommunication networks."

Peter Hinchcliffe, British

ambassador to Jordan, said that Britain would extend every assistance to Jordan to have the private sector participate in development projects in the country.

The statement said that the British Embassy in Jordan has been very active in assisting the Jordanian public and private sectors through organising seminars, workshops as well as inviting several Jordanian ministers and senior officials to the United Kingdom to look at Britain's experience in privatisation.

## Kuwait hesitant about privatisation

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait is hesitant about embarking on a full privatisation programme amid concern for the social and economic impact of the process, the planning minister has said.

"We are facing major political and economic obstacles to privatisation," Planning and Administrative Development Minister Ali Al Zamil was quoted as saying by the English-language Arab Times.

"We are currently conducting several studies on possible social and political impacts of the process,"

the minister said in a speech given to a local economics society.

"Our economy is family-oriented. We have small companies and very few shareholding firms. Our economic sectors are not prepared, nor are they ready, for privatisation," he said.

The government has raised more than \$2 billion through a programme of public sell-offs that began in 1994.

But economists say privatisation has so far meant the sale of shares in companies that fell into state hands during a stock market collapse

in 1982, rather than selling major state assets, such as water, electricity and telecommunications.

"Where is the private sector in Kuwait to handle the process? Should we bring foreign investors?" Minister Zamil asked, emphasising the "social factor" which must be considered.

The government employs more than 90 per cent of the Kuwaiti labour force, which is likely to be streamlined if any public companies are handed over to the private sector.

## Arab states spend \$40m a day on food imports, Egyptian minister says

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab countries have to import \$40 million of food each day to feed their people, Egyptian Trade Minister Ahmad Ghowli said Saturday.

"Today, 65 per cent of Arab wheat requirements are imported from abroad, 74 per cent of its sugar needs and 62 per cent of its vegetable oil consumption," Mr. Ghowli said in his opening address for the 34th annual conference of the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce (UACC).

"That shows that Arab countries as a whole represent the region with the biggest food deficit in the world," he said.

"Arab countries spend at least \$40 million each day

to ensure the importation of food products," Mr. Ghowli said, but added: "They have the possibility of reversing that situation."

Some 600 business people from 22 Arab countries are taking part in the three-day conference whose theme is "human resources in the economic world."

A report by the UACC said contributions for the development of human resources rests on the private sector in Arab countries, the majority of whom have adopted policies of privatisation and free market economies.

"The Arab World faces numerous challenges, the most serious is population growth," said Mr. Ghowli.

He said the Arab population will reach 290 million by 2000 from 252 million in 1996, a growth rate of 2.5 per cent which exceeds the 1.8 per cent rate for developing coun-

tries.

"The Arab working population is estimated at 76 million people and is expected to reach 90 million in the year 2000 while the rate of unemployment will increase because education policies and market needs are inconsistent," he said.

Mr. Ghowli called for substantial reform in education policies and vocational training as well as investment in health, the environment and infrastructure, sectors mainly run by the state.

The UACC report spoke of the importance of private sector participation in strategies for social development and called on governments to provide the facilities to encourage investment in rural regions and in labour intensive sectors of production.

The conference will also discuss another vital matter — the lack of water in the Arab World and its repercussions for agriculture.

The UACC groups all chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture in the Arab World.



**MONA LISA**  
looks at  
**SHAKESPEARE!**  
with admiration for our  
gold and gems designs.

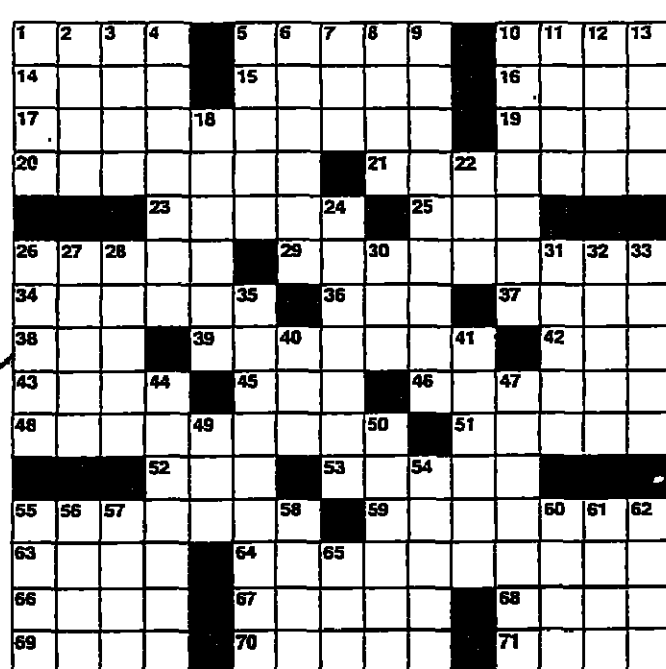


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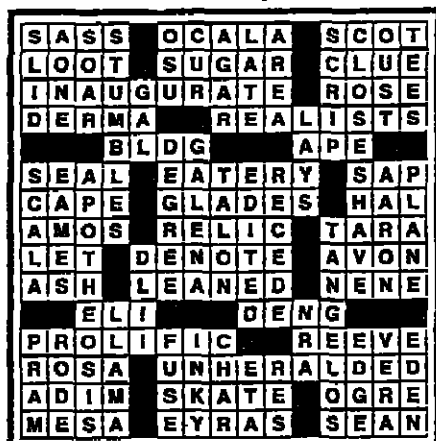
## THE Daily Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Navy vessels
- 5 Tomfoolery
- 10 Cookbook direction
- 14 Indian nurse
- 15 Skirt shape
- 16 British composer
- 17 Alexander's mount
- 19 Storm
- 20 Rich yeast bread
- 21 More steadfast
- 23 Clothes hanger?
- 25 Rapper Vanilla
- 26 Made of certain wood
- 29 Robert E. Lee's mount
- 34 Slid
- 36 Eisenhower
- 37 Not on tape
- 38 Statue
- 39 Rescinds
- 42 Spelldown
- 43 Exhale
- 45 Public vehicle
- 46 Longs
- 48 Don Quixote's
- 51 Subside
- 52 Negative
- 53 A Bronte
- 55 Chinese puzzle
- 59 Electra's brother
- 63 Malescence
- 64 Date Evans' mount
- 66 Lacoste
- 67 Compare
- 68 Kirghiz range
- 69 Vocal equine
- 70 Wear away
- 71 Fast time



by Gayle Dean



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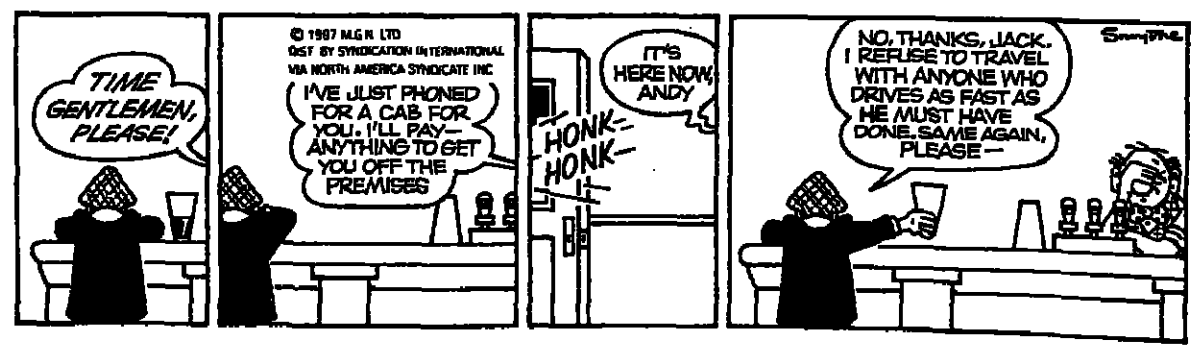
### DOWN

- 1 Chemists' places
- 2 Flue find
- 3 Mexican lunch item
- 4 Postponed
- 5 African region
- 6 Earth, e.g.
- 7 Roughneck's discovery
- 8 Burden
- 9 Joyously
- 10 Gym item
- 11 Roberts
- 12 "Picnic" playwright
- 13 Goggle
- 18 Shop tool
- 22 Sleeve card
- 24 Italian city
- 26 Gawker
- 27 Noted mission
- 28 Flightless birds
- 30 Rap sheet letters
- 31 Southern constellation
- 32 Happening
- 33 Della of song
- 35 Questionable item
- 40 Paronomasia
- 41 Caulk
- 44 Felt pins and needles
- 47 Very profound
- 49 Neither's partner
- 50 Showed feeling
- 54 Personification of peace
- 55 Semester
- 56 Declare
- 57 Number of Muses
- 58 American naturalist
- 60 Grouter's piece
- 61 Verve
- 62 Theatrical sketch
- 65 Boxing victory

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,  
Astrologer: Carroll  
Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Contact fellow associates and discuss vital matters with them today, so that the days ahead can be more successful for all concerned.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) This is an ideal day today to get into sports and amusements which you most enjoy, but first make some new plan for the days ahead.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Put concerns aside and be off to pleasures today with good companions and have a fine time with them, involved in some pleasant activities.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Add something new to your home today which will please you mate and family and bring greater comfort to those who reside under your roof.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get out with good friends to whatever activities are mutually enjoyed. Later this evening make visits to be with friends you haven't seen lately.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Handle those tasks today which will make your possessions more charming and valuable. Show that you have excellent taste.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Get busy early today improving your appearance in some way and this will give your ego a boost. Then later this evening plan to make arrangements to visit a good friend soon.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to delve into whatever is puzzling to you and get the right solution to mysteries which are of great concern at this time.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Try not to do or say anything which could disturb the one you care much about. Any personal duties should be handled immediately.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) If out in public today, be certain to do nothing which can spoil your good reputation. Study career matters which can help your advancement.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You want to take on some new enterprises at this time, but you need more information if they are to be made successful.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your intuition is not working very accurately today, so rely solely on your mature judgement. This is not a good day to take on responsibilities.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx.

Business

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## Amman working for U.N. approval of Iraqi contracts

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordan said Saturday it was working hard to speed up approval of contracts for food Iraq is trying to buy under its oil-for-food arrangement with the United Nations. "We are in continuous contact with the U.N. sanctions committee" in charge of approving the contracts, the official news agency Petra quoted the Jordanian industry and trade ministry spokesman as saying. Iraqi orders from Jordanian suppliers are worth \$120 million, Jordanian economic officials said, but none of those contracts has been approved yet by the United Nations. So far, only eight contracts have been approved. Under the deal which went into force in December, Baghdad can sell \$2 billion in crude oil every six months in order to purchase food and medicine. Iraq has complained several times about how long the approval of the contracts was taking.

## India pins high hopes on 'Trade Promotion Week' to boost business with Jordan

By Tanya Habjouqa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Indian Embassy began its week-long "Indo-Jordan Trade Promotion Week" Sunday with the aim of promoting bilateral business opportunities in trade, investment, and technology transfer. "Many Jordanian businesses are not aware of the potential for bilateral ventures — there need to be more interaction with their Indian counterparts," Sanjay Panda, the Indian Embassy Charge d'Affaires told the Jordan Times.

Last year's "Trade Promotion Week" was a great success as there was an increase in trade. Mr. Panda said adding that over 200 Jordanian businessmen

had participated at that time. The Jordanian business community will have access to comprehensive computerized databases on Indian trade and industry, as well as trade directories, brochures, and company profiles covering various business sectors, the Indian diplomat indicated.

He said an emphasis on the thrust products which hold potential for accelerating the trade pace of bilateral trade opportunities will also be discussed. Trade between both countries has grown rapidly over the past year, and though the balance is in the Kingdom's favour, India's

exports have increased by 15 per cent, according to an Indian press statement.

"We are encouraged by the response from the Jordanian business community, we can really explore joint collaboration here," Indian Ambassador Gajanan Wakankar said Sunday. India has become the number one importer from Jordan since 1991. In the non-oil category, Jordan tops the list of Middle East exporters to India, said a press statement.

Jordan's main exports to India are rock phosphates, potash, and finished fertilizers, which had a revenue of \$163.2 million in 1995, embassy officials said. Indian exports to Jordan include rice, wheat, engineering goods, frozen

meat, and soybean meal, which had a revenue of \$70 million in 1995.

"India is an agricultural country, and there is an essential need for the phosphates that Jordan produces," Mr. Wakankar said.

A significant achievement in Indo-Jordan relations was the signing of a joint venture between the Jordan Phosphate Company and the Southern Petrochemical Industries Company for establishing a \$169.5 million phosphoric acid plant in the south of Jordan.

The venture is expected to commence this May and the entire production of phosphoric acid will be destined for India in line with an 11 year buy-back arrangement, the press statement said.

"Our biggest export to Jordan is soybean (oil cake), which goes into chicken and cattle feed," Mr. Wakankar told the Jordan Times.

According to the ambassador, a highlight of the promotional trade week will be the arrival of the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) to Amman this Wednesday.

The SEA, an association comprised of leading exporters of soybean meal and animal feed, will participate in a buyer-seller meeting in cooperation with the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce on Feb. 26 at the conference hall of the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

"Many businesses procure cattle feed from India and now they will

have the chance to sit down and discuss long term plans," the ambassador added.

There are five Jordanian companies which produce cattle feed, like the Jordan Feed Company and the Arab Feed Manufacturing Company, which will all attend the meeting, as well as up to 60 other local businesses, Mr. Wakankar said.

"We are looking forward to this week as our objective is for imports on both sides to increase, and we hope to popularise both Jordanian and Indian goods," he added.

Projected bilateral trade figures for 1997 are expected to reach the \$300 million mark with the commissioning of the joint Indo-Jordan Chemical Company.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Government cancels minimum amount for investment for non-Jordanians

\*\*THE GOVERNMENT announced Saturday that it has cancelled the minimum monetary investment figures required of non-Jordanian entrepreneurs in order to provide additional opportunities to a wider sector of investors. The minimum amount was previously fixed at JD100,000 for various investments except purchases of shares and stocks which required a minimum of only JD1,000. The limits were abolished to provide non-Jordanians similar treatment as Jordanian investors (Al Aswaaq).

### Germany pledges DM55m

\*\*THE GERMAN government has pledged during His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Germany to pay an additional DM55 million to the DM40 million protocol for 1997 signed between Amman and Bonn. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Saturday. He indicated that the DM55 million will be spent on construction of infrastructure at "less privileged areas within the social safety net. The minister added: "We have agreed with the German side to transfer part of German credits into investments in Jordan." He said that talks between Jordanian and German officials covered German support to the Kingdom at the coming negotiations with the Paris Club to reschedule Jordan's debts for 1998 (Al Aswaaq).

### Government studying regulation to allow opening of employment offices

\*\*THE MINISTRY of Labour has recommended to the Prime Ministry a draft regulation that would allow the private sector, in cooperation with the public sector, to open special employment offices to find jobs abroad for Jordanian workers, Labour Minister Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh said. The minister explained that the offices will be licensed by the ministry in accordance with specific terms provided that large bank guarantees are submitted to cover the consequences of these offices violating any of the terms.

The regulation, presently under review at the Bureau of Legislation, specifies the fees that the employment offices should charge for finding job opportunities for Jordanians and the obligation of the offices towards their clients. Under the provisions of the regulation, the operations of the offices must be subject to continued supervision to ensure that there will be violation to the rules and terms. About 250,000 Jordanians work outside the country (Al Aswaaq).

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

"I've been meaning to ask you this for years. Do you think I'm a procrastinator?"

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLUSK  
PARPE  
PROCEO  
STUCCA

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: VITAL COUPE ABDUCT ROTATE  
Answer: How a modern rancher gets his steers to market — WITH A CATTLE 'DRIVE'

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHAMSANI											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 23/02/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	F / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANSACTIONS	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOS. PRICE	CHANGE	
256.000	204.000	ARAB BANK	14.3	3.34	10	400	104810	261.50	262.00	.50+	
2.300	1.900	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	E	0.00	23	20772	42144	2.03	2.04	.01+	
5.500	4.250	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	10.3	3.00	1	10000	50000	5.00	5.00	0.00	
2.650	2.800	BANK OF JORDAN	11.5	0.00	2	12800	40960	3.23	3.23	0.00	
1.10	.880	HID. EAST INV. BK.	12.5	0.00	1	150	175	1.15	1.15	0.00	
.630	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.4	5.92	2	92	214	2.33	2.33	.02+	
5.255	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.6	2.94	2	496	2329	4.70	4.70	0.00	
4.180	3.480	JOR. TEL. & CABLE	16.4	0.00	9	2300	9253	3.24	3.24	.03+	
2.800	1.380	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	6	2150	3102	1.47	1.47	.01+	
1.440	1.000	PHILADELPHIA INV. BK.	9	0.00	7	1918	2293	1.18	1.18	.02+	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 199.56	CHNG: +0.20	63	51178	255277				
1.830	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.7	7.24	22	14450	24223	1.67	1.67	.01+	
1.580	1.080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	34	22250	27807	1.52	1.52	.01+	
1.050	.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	21.5	3.84	2	600	582	.96	.96	.01+	
.800	.410	MCHI. REP. REIM. MAIN.	9	0.00	3	1750	788	.45	.45	0.00	
2.200	1.450	HID. EAST HOTELS	68.5	0.00	1	150	230	1.55	1.55	.04+	
3.720	3.130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	13.6	5.80	14	7300	25192	3.40	3.40	.05+	
1.220	.860	ZAKIA EDUCATION	9	0.00	1	500	530	1.06	1.06	.01+	
2.230	1.690	UNIFIED CO.	9.2	5.70	8	4150	7963	2.00	2.00	.01+	
1.200	.800	UNION LAND DEV.	E	0.00	1	800	640	.80	.80	0.00	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.48	CHNG: +0.42	87	51950	87962				
3.730	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.7	2.90	8	1755	6050	3.48	3.45	.03+	
6.100	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	18.3	3.31	6	9795	35000	6.00	6.04	.04+	
10.400	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.1	7.99	3	100	100	10.00	10.01	.01+	
1.590	1.150	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	60.8	0.00	5	1700	2297	1.33	1.27	.04+	
3.520	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	36.4	0.00	5	632	1707	2.68	2.71	.03+	
4.500	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	21.1	5.15	26	5300	20101	3.79	3.85	.06+	
7.250	5.650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	8.8	3.52	1	1100	7810	7.20	7.10	.10+	
2.310	1.870	JOR. PAPER MANF.	8.9	7.45	2	750	1308	1.62	1.61	.01+	
7.050	4.250	DAR ALBAHAR DV. INV.	11.5	4.04	6	100	485	4.90	4.9	.05+	
5.800	3.130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.7	8.57	6	1500	5210	3.60	3.6	.10+	
1.540	.930	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	4	1200	1272	1.05	1.05	.01+	
1.670	1.080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	29.4	0.00	24	11300	17153	1.54	1.57	.03+	
2.940	1.440	UNIV. MOON. IND.	5.2	11.55	6	4750	8215	1.41	1.41	.02+	
1.840	1.140	JOR. WOOD. RESOURCES	17.2	0.00	14	3879	5328	1.36	1.38	.02+	
1.270	.840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	25.0	0.00	14	7250	6670	.92	.92	0.00	
1.370	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	28.5	0.00	8	2000	2420	1.51	1.51	.01+	
1.470	.930	UNION CH. & VEG.	24.9	0.00	7	7350	2424	1.00	1.01	.01+	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 118.66	CHNG: -0.17	139	56461	130044				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 156.54	CHNG: +0.20	289	159589	473283				

## Arab company snatches contract to service Britain's Royal Air Force Lockheed aircraft

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An Arab jet maintenance firm has won a deal to service Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) Lockheed aircraft, thwarting companies from Britain and other Western countries, officials have said.

The Gulf Aircraft Maintenance Company (GAMCO), controlled by the Abu Dhabi government, was awarded the \$47 million contract this month by the RAF for the maintenance of nine of its Lockheed Tristar L-1011 fleet.

The five-year contract was won after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Britain signed a landmark defence treaty in November after nearly three years of negotiations. But officials said there was no link between the defence accord and the RAF deal.

"There is no relation at all. We won the contract mainly because we were more competitive in prices," GAMCO General Manager Ahmad Al Musa told reporters after announcing the biggest package in the company's history.

GAMCO snatched the deal from British Marshall Aerospace of Cambridge, which has been performing RAF maintenance for the past 13 years.

The other competitors included a consortium from the U.S. Lockheed Aeronautics Centre, British Airways and the U.S. Delta Airlines, as well as aircraft services Lemwerder of Germany, the British FLS Aerospace and six other world firms.

GAMCO, the biggest aircraft servicing company in the Middle East, has decided to open an office in Britain, possibly in Cambridge, for the contract, which was signed on Feb. 6, it said in a statement.

The British Defence Ministry had issued the tenders for the contract, which the statement described as the "biggest airframe contract ever awarded to an independent third party maintenance company in the world."

GAMCO's marketing and business development manager, Zaher Faruqi, said the value of the contract included 125 million dirhams (\$34 million) for scheduled aircraft maintenance and the rest for unscheduled planes.

"There is a possibility that the contract will be extended for another three years. It will be the decision of RAF," he said.

He said the Abu Dhabi-based GAMCO would perform nine maintenance checks on TriStar planes in 1997, of which there will be at least three major checks starting with the first aircraft arrival in Abu Dhabi in April.

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## Qatar table tennis championship opens today

Jordan plays in Group 3 alongside Qatar, Iran and Belarus

By Ma'moun Baydoun in Doha and Roufan Nahhas in Amman

THE 3RD QATAR International Open Table Tennis Championship opens today in Qatar with Jordan taking part alongside 32 teams.

The Kingdom will play in the Group 3 with Qatar, Iran and Belarus. Teams considered some of the best in the world.

Jordan's opening match will be against Iran in the morning session. Qatar will face Belarus in the afternoon prior to the opening ceremony.

Twenty-four teams will participate in the championship. 16 teams will play in the preliminary round and have been divided into four groups.

Group 1: Qatar, Palestine, Holland, and Malaysia.  
Group 2: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, England and Lebanon.  
Group 3: Jordan, Qatar, Iran and Belarus.  
Group 4: Tunisia, Kuwait, Denmark and Ukraine.

Eight teams have first round byes and will automatically qualify to the second round depending on their world rank. Those teams are: China, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, France, Germany, Italy and Austria.

The championship offers total cash prizes reaching up to \$110,000 for teams competing in team, singles and doubles events.

The prizes in team events reach \$20,000 with the first place winner getting \$8,000, second place winner \$5,000

and the third place finisher \$3,500.

Jordan's Abed Aziz Rida, Mustapha Rida, Iyad Maknay, Ayman Maknay and Wael Sawalha ended a successful four-day training camp here in Qatar with Egypt and Qatar's teams.

Jordan's coach Ayman Kurdi said that the training camp was important to the players as they had the chance to play a couple of friendly matches with teams from Egypt, Qatar and Chinese professional players playing for the Qatari team.

He said the team faced some difficulty in training the team because of the exams.

The Qatar championship precedes the Arab Cup Championship which will take place in Amman in late March.

The Jordan's Table Tennis Federation (JTTF) received the first confirmation from the Saudi team for the five-day championship scheduled to take place March 28th to April 1st.

On the other hand, the JTTF announced that the Jordan Cup would be held at the beginning of March with 24 teams participating in the championship which will be held at the Sports Palace at Al Hussein Sports City.

The championship is obligatory to the first division teams but optional to the other divisions.

Meanwhile five women's teams will take part in the championship: Al Shabibeh, Madinat Al Hassan, Abu Nusair, Orthodoxi and Amman.

## Devers wins battle of Olympic medallists

FAIRFAX, Virginia (R) — Gail Devers overcame injury to post the year's third fastest 60-metres time and win a battle of Olympic medallists Saturday at the Mobil Invitational Grand Prix meet.

Devers, the 1992 and 1996 Olympic champion in the 100 metres, was clocked at 7.07 seconds to beat Gwen Torrence, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist at 200 metres, and fellow-American Olympian Carlette Guidry.

Torrence ran 7.12, her best of the season, and Guidry, who came back to win the 200 metres, was third in 7.14.

Another Atlanta Olympic champion, Allen Johnson, won the 60 metre hurdles here for the third consecutive year.

Other winners on the day included Jamaica's Michael Green in the men's 60 metres (6.53), Jacqueline Maranga of Kenya in the women's mile (hand timed in 4:30.3) and Julius Achon of Uganda in the men's mile.

Achon, who runs for George Mason University, which hosts the meet, covered the mile in 3:57.41, edging Zimbabwe's Passmore Furusa (3:57.82).

Ireland's Niall Bruton was a disappointing eighth (4:09.44). American Jason Pyrah, second at the Millrose Games two weeks ago, was third in 3:59.09.

The Devers-Torrence competition was the highlight of the meet, especially since it almost did not come off.

"I'm very pleased, more so because I didn't leave the meet on a stretcher," said Devers, who has been bothered by a right hamstring injury she suffered last month in Germany. Despite the injury, she posted a time bettered this year by only Irina Privalova of Russia and Nigeria's Christy Opara (both 7.02).

"I came in iffy. If I felt anything in my warmup, I wasn't supposed to run, but I didn't feel anything then or during the race," said Devers, hopeful she will be fit enough to run in next weekend's U.S. indoor nationals in Atlanta.

Torrence is also pointing for the Atlanta meet, though she won't go on to the world championships. "I'm not ready. Until I can run in 7-flat, I won't be. And I'm not that gung ho this year," said Torrence.

Johnson's time, 7.57, was the slowest of his three victories here. "I wasn't disappointed. This is only my third meet of the year. Usually I've run 15 by now," Johnson said.

"I'm using this to prepare for outdoors. I want to win next week and the worlds, but everything I'm doing now is to benefit my outdoor season."

Two-time U.S. Olympian Steve Scott set an American record in the masters mile. The 40-year-old Scott, who had cancer surgery in 1994, went the last quarter in 59.87 to clock 4:14.27. The previous Mark, 4:14.41, was held by Ken Popejoy.

Ireland's Eamonn Coughlan has the world masters mark, 3:58.15.



Chelsea's Italian striker Gianfranco Zola (R) is congratulated by teammates after scoring the opening goal against Manchester United during their F.A. Carling Premiership match at Stamford Bridge. The match ended in a 1-1 draw (Reuters photo)

## Newcastle close in as top two draw

LONDON, (R) — Another brilliant goal by England midfielder David Beckham earned Manchester United a point from a 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge on Saturday after Gianfranco Zola had put Chelsea ahead.

United stayed top of the English league standings as Liverpool could only draw 0-0 at home to Blackburn despite dominating throughout. Newcastle moved into third as a Les Ferdinand goal was enough to win 1-0 at bottom club Middlesbrough.

Ian Marshall scored a hat-trick in the first 27 minutes to help Leicester beat Derby 4-2 while Sheffield Wednesday came from two down to win 3-2 at Southampton.

Leeds won 1-0 at Sunderland and Coventry against Everton and Nottingham Forest against Aston Villa ended goalless.

The results kept Manchester United top on 54 points, one ahead of Liverpool. Newcastle have 48 with a game in hand, ahead on goal difference of Arsenal, who play Wimbledon on Sunday.

Zola walked through a static United defence to put Chelsea ahead after just two minutes.

Mark Hughes should have made it 2-0 soon afterwards but fluffed his shot — and Chelsea never went as close again.

United hauled themselves back into the game and claimed a fully deserved point when Beckham seized on a poor header by Trevor Sinclair to crash a superb volley into the roof of the net.

Blackburn's first win of the season came against Liverpool back in November when the Ewood Park Club were still rooted to the foot of the table.

They continued their climb away from the danger zone — but Liverpool will be wondering just how they failed to win.

The usually deadly Robbie Fowler proved strangely out of touch as he squandered four chances he would normally have tucked away with ease.

Two of his efforts hit the Woodwork after neat passing moves had opened up the Blackburn defence — the other two disappeared high into the stand.

Jason McAteer and Steve McManaman also missed good opportunities and Dominic Matteo thumped a header against the bar in the last minute.

"It was a game of missed chances," said McAteer. "We created plenty but just couldn't seem to finish them."

Liverpool's home form has been their weakness this season with a defeat and now six draws at the usually impregnable Anfield.

McAteer recognized the problem. "We need to find more consistency and win a few more at home," said the Ireland international. "The dressing room was dead after today."

Another changing room to be avoided was the one marked "home" at the Dell after Southampton threw away a 2-0 half-time lead.

Egil Ostenstad and Matt Le Tissier from the penalty spot had Southampton looking good but two goals in six minutes by David Hirst levelled things and Andy Booth hit the winner 12 minutes from time.

"We knew we could play much better," said Hirst. "In the second half we threw caution to the wind."

Wednesday have now lost only once in their last 20 games while Southampton looked ever more likely relegation-bound.

Middlesbrough, expected to join them, were somewhat "unlucky to lose to local rivals Newcastle".

Les Ferdinand shot Newcastle ahead in the eighth minute but Bryan Robson's side looked the more dangerous from then on.

Clayton Blackmore hit a post for Boro and then Fabrizio Ravanelli thought he had scored only for the goal to be ruled out for a foul.

Derby went ahead through Dean Sturridge after two minutes at Leicester — only to fall 3-1 behind 25 minutes later as Marshall thumped in a 25-yarder and followed with two tap-ins.

Sturridge hit a second before Steve Claridge settled it for Leicester.

Lee Bowyer kept up his good recent scoring run to give Leeds the points at Sunderland but the return of Dion Dublin after a seven-game ban did not help Coventry to find the net against Everton.

Wayward finishing was the main ingredient at Nottingham Forest where Villa missed several decent opportunities.

## Davenport, Raymond reach IGA Classic final

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — Top seed Lindsay Davenport shook off a slow start, while Lisa Raymond won in a breeze on Saturday to advance to the finals of the \$164,250 IGA Tennis Classic.

Davenport gained a measure of revenge with a 1-6 6-2 6-3 victory over third-seeded Kimberly Po, who eliminated the Olympic champion at last month's Australian Open.

The fourth-seeded Raymond looked unseeded. Francesca Lubiana of Italy 6-1 6-0 in a 41-minute mismatch.

Davenport will try to extend her unbeaten streak against Raymond in Sunday's final. She is 3-0 against fellow-American Raymond including a 6-3 6-4 win last month in the Sydney international.

Lubiana knocked off sixth-seeded Amy Frazier in the first round and then shocked second seed Amanda Coetzer 6-0 6-4 in Friday's semifinals. But the 19-year-old Italian ran out of magic against Raymond, 26th in the tour rankings.

Lubiana, ranked 110th, won only the fourth game in the first set. "I never let her in the match," Raymond said. "I played pretty well, flawless tennis and never allowed her to play her game."

Po needed just 19 minutes to take the first set against Davenport.

But Davenport, ranked eighth in the world, took control in the second set with three service breaks.

The 19th-ranked Po had two victories in four previous matches against Davenport.

"She started off really, really well," Davenport said of her long-time rival and fellow-Californian. "She played some of the best tennis anyone has ever played against me."

"There wasn't much I could do. I just hung in there and wasn't down on myself."

Davenport said her showing here had helped her get over disappointing results in Australia last month.

"I didn't play well in Australia, so it feels good to be winning again," she said.

## Drug use is West's dark secret: Chinese coach

HONG KONG, (AFP) — Western countries have been using drugs for decades to enhance the performance of their athletes, leading to defeats for competitors from China and other nations, an outspoken Chinese coach was quoted as saying in a report Sunday.

Ma Junren told a university seminar in Hong Kong on Saturday he did not advocate use of performance-enhancing drugs but now fed his charges a soup made from a special kind of fish to give them a natural lift. The South China Morning Post said.

He is already famous for feeding his athletes turtle blood and slug paste soup.

"Western countries have a very long history in medicine," Ma said.

"They have been inventing and experimenting with new drugs," he said. "Once they find a better drug they use it and put the old one on the banned list."

"I prefer using Chinese herbs and other nutritious food to help athletes recover their energy."

Ma led a team of Chinese runners, known as "Ma's army", to a string of long and middle distance world records at the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart.

He claimed at the time that his team's success was in part due to a diet including "soft shelled turtle-blood soup".

## Monaco crash but PSG cannot take advantage

PARIS (AFP) — French League leaders Monaco saw their title hopes jolted Saturday as they crashed 2-0 in Metz, but rivals Paris Saint Germain failed to take advantage as they were held 1-1 at home by Guingamp.

Metz, going for a place in the UEFA Cup for the second season in a row, completely outwitted their illustrious opponents with Cyril Serresdzum heading the northerners in front on 15 minutes following a pinpoint cross from Didier Lang.

Robert Pires, whom Metz say will not go to Newcastle United for less than 8 million pounds, could have made it two on the half hour but his shot was hurried and flashed wide.

With Rigobert Song successfully muzzling Brazilian hitman Sonny Anderson, Monaco were a shadow of their usual selves in attack, although Scottish midfielder John Collins went close with one long-range drive.

Another Lang freekick set up Rodriguez for Metz's second in the last minute for a well-deserved win.

PSG stand six points off the pace after squandering two points at home to Guingamp, who took a 27th minute lead with a Stéphane Carnot goal direct from a corner which caught keeper Bernard Lama napping at his near post.

Brazilian midfielder Rai scored from the spot to save a point for the hosts on 69 minutes after a Hugues foul on Panamanian striker Dely



Jean Pierre Papin of Bordeaux chases after the ball in his French soccer league match against Marseille. Bordeaux is seventh placed in the standings and Marseille placed ninth (Reuters photo)

Valdes. Ex-Monaco man Christophe Wreh could have given the visitors the win late on but hit the post with Lama beaten.

Elsewhere, Bastia and Strasbourg kept in the hunt, third-placed Bastia beating Nancy 2-0 in Corsica and Strasbourg coming through 4-2 in Lille to stay fourth. Bastia are now just one point behind PSG.

Bordeaux are fifth after thrashing Marseille 4-0, emerging star Ibrahim BA again on target.

Marseille had Xavier Gravelaine sent off for punching Jean-Pierre Papin in the face on the stroke of half-time. Papin had to go off as a Monaco coach Jean Tigana was angry that his side had made things difficult for themselves after a bright initial phase.

"At the moment, we're having difficulty sorting out balls in the air," he noted. But he said the defeat did not mean his side was cracking under the strain as they chase the title and the UEFA Cup.

Defender Emmanuel Petit admitted he and his teammates "are lacking in concentration at dead ball situations. But there's no crisis," he insisted.

PSG general manager Ricardo described his side's result as a "new disappointment" after the Parisians failed to win at home for the fifth game in a row.

"It's just not going for us at the Parc des Princes. We weren't good today. And we missed a great chance to narrow the gap on Monaco."

Keeper Lama took joint responsibility with Benoit Cauet for the misunderstanding that allowed Guingamp their goal.

"We didn't sort things out for who should go for the ball. It was bad coordination between us."

## Christie wins Botany Bay gift on grass track

SYDNEY (AFP) — British Olympic gold medallist Linford Christie, running on a grass track for the first time since his schooldays, won the \$91,000 Botany Bay gift over 120 metres Sunday.

The Barcelona Olympic 100m champion picked up \$16,000 winner's cheque when he clocked 12.03secs off scratch in the final to edge out Australian Tony Marshall with British teammate Darren Campbell third.

Despite conceding starts to the other finalists, Christie, 36, stormed home to win in a photo finish.

"It was good fun and I enjoyed it," said Christie.

"The last time I ran on grass was at school and I've never been presented with a winner's sash before. But the others were going fast and I had to work hard to catch them."

Christie also won the 100 yards title in 9.49secs from Campbell and Australian Olympian Dean Capobianco.

"I may be back next year, but will not compete at the World (Indoor) Championships in Paris (next month). I haven't had this much fun in a long time," said Christie.

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## Countdown begins for Arab Champions Cup

By Mufeed Hassouneh  
in Casablanca and  
Aleen Bannayan in Amman

THE COUNTDOWN has started for the kickoff of the 3rd Arab Champions Cup which starts in Casablanca, Morocco, Feb. 27 with Al Faisali representing Jordan alongside top three Arab teams. Arab League Champions Egypt's Al Ahly arrive in Casablanca today to join runners-up Morocco's Al Raja, Arab Cup Winners Cup champions Olympic Khreibek of Morocco and runners-up Al Faisali at the championship's headquarters where teams are putting the finishing touches on their preparations.

Al Faisali will be playing Egypt's Al Ahly in the opening match at 8 p.m. followed by the Khreibek-Raja match. Jordan Television will be covering all the matches after the Arab Soccer Federation (ASF) announced that the championship's matches would be televised to all Arab countries.

Al Faisali had qualified after finishing in second place after Khreibek in the Arab Cup Winners Cup which was held in Amman last summer.

They will be the first Jordanian team to participate in the elite event which groups the Arab World's top teams. The ASF Saturday received confirmation that HRH Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, president of the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), would be attending the championship alongside FIFA President Joao Havelange, Asian Football chief Sultan Ahmad Shah, African Football chief Issa Hayatou, and Egyptian Football Chairman Samir Zaker.

The ASF had earlier praised Jordan's participation noting that they considered Al Faisali to be the team to watch.

The ASF secretary-general said the Arab Champions Cup aimed at naming the best Arab team as the event groups

the top two teams of the Cup Winners Cup and League Champions.

Significant cash prizes await the participating teams with the winner receiving \$50,000, the runner-up \$25,000, the third place finisher \$15,000 and the fourth team \$10,000.

In addition, the Prince Faisal trophy and prize will be awarded to the ideal team. Each team will start the championship with 20 points; two points will be deducted for each yellow card booking and 6 points for each suspension. There will also be prizes for top scorer, top goalie and best player.

Hosts, Al Raja will receive \$50,000 for hosting the event.

Al Faisali's delegation had left Amman last Wednesday to conclude their preparation with a five-day training camp in Casablanca prior to the start of the tournament.

The team was scheduled to have two friendly matches with the Bank of Morocco and an unnamed first division team.

As part of the preparation, Al Faisali hosted Romania's Jiul Petrosani and had two matches in Amman losing 1-0 and winning 2-1 during the Ramadan holiday.

Al Faisali's 29-member delegation includes players: Anis Shafiq, Walid Abu Hmeid, Freidon Saeed, Mohammad Mahadin, Ahmad Khalil, Firas Khalafleh, Ali Zu'bi, Ihab Nasr, Rami Abu Fanar, Osama Talal, Rateb Awadat, Ziyad Abu Shanab, Jamal Abu Abed, Subhi Suleiman, Hassouneh Sheikh, Hatem Aqel, Haitham Shbouh, Jiryes Tadros, Mahmoud Matar, Ja'far Hammad, Mansour Tawaiyah, Raed Jbour.

## Henman to play Rosset in EC tournament final

ANTWERP (R) — Marc Rosset recovered from a shaky start to beat Czech Petr Korda 7-6 6-3 on Saturday and set up a final with British number one Tim Henman in the European Community Championship.

"I like this guy...I like his style," Rosset said of Henman. "He's a smart player." The final will be their first meeting.

Earlier, sixth-seeded Henman — the only seed to survive the earlier rounds — reached his third final of the year when he beat unseeded Marc Goellner 6-4 6-4.

Rosset quickly fell 4-1 behind as Korda's powerful groundstrokes and accurate drop shots gave him the edge.

The former Olympic champion drew a loud cheer when he launched his racket high in the air in frustration and caught it.

"It's my style to always

be one break down in the first set because I'm always slow to warm up...But he was returning unbelievably, there was nothing I could do but wait," said Swiss Rosset, who had lost four of his five previous matches against Korda.

But Korda, ranked 33 in the world, faded soon afterwards and was overwhelmed in the tie-break 7-2.

Rosset used his big serve to keep the momentum going in the second set while Korda folded further under the pressure.

The Czech saved the first match point but succumbed to the second when he hit a backhand passing shot wide.

Henman, the world number 19 who won his first professional title in Sydney last month, broke Goellner in the opening game after the German double-faulted twice and

then held his serve to seal the first set in 35 minutes. He broke again in the opening game of the second set after another Goellner double fault.

Goellner, winner of two tournaments on clay in the past four years, made amends with a service break in the next game but Henman broke again in the fifth game and never looked in danger of losing control.

He served out the match with a love game after one hour 10 minutes.

Henman said he had been steadily improving throughout the week and had produced some "very good tennis" against Goellner.

"But I still feel that for the final there is room for improvement," he said.



Fredri Bobic of VfB Stuttgart celebrates his goal during his team's German soccer league match between VfB Stuttgart and Karlsruhe SC in Stuttgart. Bobic scored the goal in the 93rd minute (Reuters photo)

## Iraq beats Jordan 1-0

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraqi national soccer team Sunday beat Jordan 1-0 in the second friendly international for both teams in preparation for the Asian World Cup qualifiers. Iraq had defeated the Kingdom's team by the same result in their first encounter. The Jordanian team returns to Amman today concluding their two-week training camp in Baghdad. They will next face the Syrian and Omani teams prior to the kickoff of the Group 3 qualifiers against Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates April 8.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Majoli in Hanover final

HANOVER (R) — Defending champion Iva Majoli of Croatia won though to the final of the Hanover Grand Prix tournament on Saturday with a straight sets victory over Austria's Barbara Paulus. Paulus, seeded sixth, pushed Majoli hard in the first set of their semifinal before the third seed triumphed 7-4 in the tie-break. Majoli looked much more comfortable in the second set and took the match 7-6 6-4. The Croatian will face top seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic in the Hanover final for the third year in succession. Novotna had little trouble overcoming Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-0 7-5 in the other semifinal.

### Atletico move up to 4th

ALICANTE, SPAIN (R) — Spanish champions Atletico Madrid continued their recent run of good form on Saturday by beating struggling Hercules 2-0 away. They went ahead midway through the first half when Daniel Prodan headed home a corner. Five minutes later Milinko Pantic finished off a well-worked move to make it 2-0. Atletico moved up to fourth place in the standings, 10 points behind leaders Real Madrid who play Oviedo in one of nine matches Sunday.

### Thompson sets indoor record

COLORADO SPRINGS (R) — Obadele Thompson of Barbados set a world indoor record in the 55 metres dash by clocking 5.99 seconds at the Western Athletic Conference Championships Saturday. Thompson, a student at University of Texas-El Paso, was one-hundredth of a second faster than the previous mark of 6.00 set by American Lee McRae in 1986. The 20-year-old Thompson competed for Barbados in the Atlanta Olympics, finishing fourth in the 200 metres.

## Chang, Woodbridge advance to Memphis finals

MEMPHIS (R) — Top seed Michael Chang bounced back after dropping the first set and celebrated his 25th birthday by defeating Todd Martin on Saturday to reach the finals of the \$825,000 St. Jude Tennis Tournament.

Chang, who played his first professional match at the tournament a decade ago, reached the Memphis final for the first time after five semifinal appearances by rallying past third-seeded Martin 3-6 6-4 6-4.

Chang's opponent in the final will be eighth seed Todd Woodbridge of Australia.

The red-hot Woodbridge, who won the Australian hardcourt tournament in Adelaide last month, beat 13th seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 6-1 7-5 in his semifinal.

Woodbridge, 12-1 in singles this year, has beaten Chang only twice in 12 career meetings.

First prize is \$120,000.

Beating Martin was no small task for the diminutive Chang.

Martin, a two-time Memphis champion, was attempting to reach his fifth straight final here and appeared on track from the outset. He broke Chang in

the third game of the opening set by whipping a forehand return down the line. He broke Chang again to close the set.

But Chang was up to the challenge. He broke Martin to open the second set and it was all that he needed. He got another break early in the third set to go up 2-1 and relied on his trademark speed and quickness to finish the victory.

Martin, 1-5 lifetime against Chang, was impressed with the comeback and the speed.

"It's not how fast he is when you've got him running from side to side, it's his knack of positioning himself so he can take advantage of his speed," said Martin.

Chang, who has spent the week answering questions about his inability to reach the Memphis final, said he was glad to finally reach the Sunday match.

"It feels great," he said. "Obviously the goal isn't to get to the final, but to win here. This is a special place for me, this is where I made my professional debut (in 1988)."

Woodbridge, best known for his outstanding doubles play, dominated early and

then proved he was up to the challenge in the second set. Bjorkman broke to tie the set at 5-all, but Woodbridge broke back and served out the set.

Bjorkman, broken once in three matches leading to the semifinals, was broken twice in the first set.

Woodbridge, ranked 32nd, broke the Swede in the second game of the match with a crosscourt forehand that ended a lengthy rally. He broke Bjorkman again in the sixth game to go up 5-1, winning with another cross court forehand off a drop shot. The first set lasted just 25 minutes.

It's tough to play that standard for a whole match," he said. You know you are going to have a lapse."

In the second set, Woodbridge was the victim of an overrule by chair umpire Norm Chryst that brought a break point against Woodbridge. He followed with his first double fault of the match, slamming his racket down in disgust still upset by the overrule.

## Hornets upset Hawks in Atlanta as Raptors stun Mavs in Dallas

ATLANTA (R) — Tony Smith's layup with 15 seconds left, off a beautiful pass through the key by Tony Delk, lifted the Charlotte Hornets to their fourth straight victory, 93-92 over the Atlanta Hawks on Saturday.

Smith, who had just four points, cut under the hoop and Delk found him with a buller pass from the top of the three-point arc for the winning basket.

"I just had a man wide open, it was the right thing to do at that moment," Delk said of the game-winning pass. "I was a little surprised, it happened so fast."

Anthony Mason led the Hornets with 25 points and 12 rebounds.

Christian Laettner had 24 points and 16 rebounds for the Hawks, who lost for just the second time in their last 24 home games.

"I think we did a good job fighting back the whole game," Laettner said. "We were down by 16 points and showed a lot of heart by hanging in there and actually taking the lead. But after you come back from a deficit like that you don't want to let it slip away."

"Our guys are so determined not to lose, sometimes their will to win is remarkable," Hornets coach Dave Cowens said.

The Hornets (34-21) moved within two games of the third place Hawks (35-18) in the Central Division.

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 34 points and keyed a pair of third-quarter runs as the Chicago Bulls routed the Golden State Warriors 120-87 for their sixth straight win.

Scottie Pippen had 22 points and Toni Kukoc added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who have won 14 of their last 15 games.

Dennis Rodman grabbed 12 rebounds for the NBA champion Bulls (48-6), who are a league-best 25-1 at home.

Joe Smith scored 19 points and Latrell Sprewell added 18 for Golden State, who have not beaten Chicago since November 1991.

In Dallas, Doug Christie scored 22 points and Walt Williams added seven of his 14 in a key fourth-quarter run as the Toronto Raptors claimed their first-ever win in Dallas, 99-92 over the

Mavericks. Darnold Stoudamire added 15 points and nine assists for the Raptors, who won for just the second time in eight games. The Raptors made 12 of 18 field goals in the fourth quarter.

Recently acquired guard Sasha Danilovic scored 20 points for Dallas. He left after suffering an apparent ankle injury in the final minute. Michael Finley also had 20 points and Shawn Bradley added 19 and 11 rebounds for the new-look Mavs, who dropped to 1-3 since their nine-player deal with the Nets.

In Philadelphia, Derrick Coleman scored 13 of his 28 points in the first quarter and grabbed 15 rebounds as the Philadelphia 76ers posted their second straight win, 97-80 over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Jerry Stackhouse added 21 points and Allen Iverson 18 for Philadelphia, which recorded consecutive wins for just the second time since November 30.

Kenny Anderson scored 20 points and Clifford Robinson added 16 for Portland, losers of seven of their last eight road games.

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